



FREUD ON FRIDAY

England win 66-0 — but who were they?

Well played! Page 42



HAPPY FAMILIES

A minority or just under-researched?

The magic ingredient, page 15



KING CONSTANTINE

Facing the future without a surname

Valerie Grove interview, page 15

30P

THE TIMES

No. 64,929

FRIDAY APRIL 15 1994

Two British officers among victims as UN helicopters are shot down over Iraq

26 die as US jets open fire in error

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

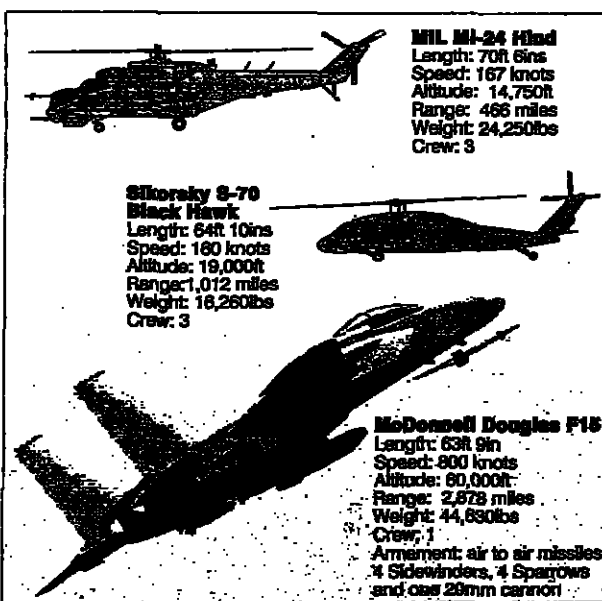
TWENTY-SIX people, including two British officers, were killed yesterday when a pair of American warplanes shot down two of their own helicopters in the "no-fly zone" over northern Iraq.

The helicopters were taking allied officials to a meeting to discuss UN security when they were mistaken for Iraqi Hind helicopters by the F15 pilots, who fired a missile each. There were no survivors among the 16 American crew and ten allied officials.

The dead were believed to include a British lieutenant-colonel and major, three Turkish officers, a Frenchman and four Iraqi Kurds. One was said to be the new commander of the UN group monitoring the air exclusion zones in northern and southern Iraq.

President Clinton expressed "terrible sorrow" and promised that the full results of a Pentagon enquiry would be made public. Malcolm Rifkind, the British Defence Secretary, said he had complete confidence in the American investigation, adding that there would be no recriminations. However, an earlier enquiry into how American warplanes mistakenly attacked and killed nine British soldiers during the Gulf War failed to satisfy either the families or a British inquiry.

Allied pilots policing the air exclusion zone imposed by the UN in 1991 to protect the



Kurds in Iraq had been on high alert in recent weeks amid Kurdish fears that President Saddam Hussein was about to launch an offensive. The Iraqi leader has amassed troops near the Kurdish enclave and on routine patrols over the safe haven in recent weeks, pilots have been trailing vapour to remind the Iraqis of their presence; the pilots yesterday may simply have been jittery.

How they came to mistake the American Black Hawk helicopters for Hinds at close range in broad daylight is, however, a mystery. An Awaacs reconnaissance plane was in the area and the helicopters were equipped with beacons that should have alerted the F15 pilots that they were friendly aircraft.

One unconfirmed report suggested that the helicopter pilots had either failed to file a flight plan or that it had not been passed on to the base at

UN personnel in northern Iraq after a series of ambushes and the killing of a German journalist.

John Shalikashvili, chairman of the American joint chiefs of staff, said that the F15 pilots had identified the helicopters visually and both had fired missiles. "Clearly something went wrong," he added.

William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, said he took full responsibility for the disaster, and paid tribute to the victims, whom he said "died on a mission in support of a noble cause of protecting an oppressed people".

Mr Clinton expressed a similar sentiment in a television broadcast, saying: "Those who died were part of a mission of mercy. They lost their lives while trying to save the lives of others. The important work they were doing must and will continue."

Mr Rifkind, who happened to be meeting Mr Perry in Washington yesterday, appeared at a Pentagon briefing to offer his sympathy for the families of the dead, describing them as very brave people.

Casualties from "friendly fire" are nothing new: defence experts estimate that one in every 50 of the American soldiers who died in the Second World War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War were killed by their own side. During the 1991 Gulf War, that rate escalated to 17 per cent, according to a Defence Department report. Of the 615 American casualties in that conflict, 35 were killed and 72 injured by "friendly fire", quite apart from the nine British soldiers killed by American warplanes.

Friendly fire saga, page 13
Leading article, page 17



President Clinton breaks the news of the tragic error: "They lost their lives while trying to save the lives of others"

Pilots made the decision to attack

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

THE accidental shooting down of the UN helicopters was the realisation of every military air commander's nightmare, a "blue on blue", or accident involving friendly fire.

It was the kind of incident which in a full-scale European war, Nato commanders predict, could lead to the destruction of half as many

aircraft as those shot down by the enemy. That is why, at vast cost and using the latest technology, fighters, bombers, transport aircraft and helicopters have been fitted with electronic devices enabling them automatically to identify themselves as friendly in a system known as IFF, or Identification Friend or Foe. But procedures used to identify aircraft inside the "no-fly zone" in northern Iraq are open to an "infinite combi-

nation" of errors which could have led to the downing of the American Black Hawk helicopters, a military expert said yesterday.

Last night the Pentagon said the pilots themselves had decided to attack and had flown in so close to the helicopters they were able — wrongly — to identify them. The attack took place despite an array of measures, both in the aircraft's equipment and in pilot training, designed to

make it impossible. The Black Hawks could have been mistaken for Iraqi Hind helicopters because of a bewildering series of more than 4,000 codes in the system used to beam questioning electronic pulses at suspect aircraft, or because attacking US jets would not even try to make radio contact with their targets, according to Mark Lambert, editor of *Jane's All the World's Aircraft*. The equipment

Speaker rebukes Major in row on health 'scandal'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major was given an unprecedented rebuke by the Speaker yesterday as claims that elderly people were being refused hospital treatment boiled over into a bitter Commons row.

He was pulled up by Betty Boothroyd for making unparliamentary remarks after accusing Margaret Beckett, the Labour deputy leader, of "peddling untruths." In exchanges that returned health to the centre of political debate, he

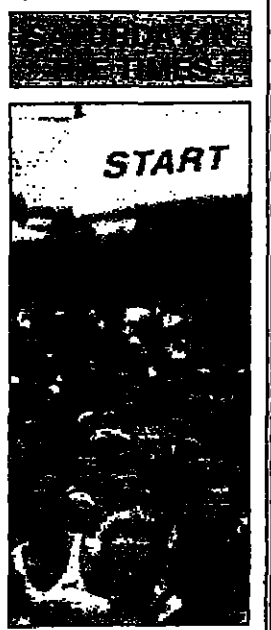
accused Labour of scaremongering and insisted that two patients named in reports yesterday as having been turned away because of their age were offered better treatment.

In spite of being asked by Miss Boothroyd to withdraw his charge against Mrs Beckett, Mr Major persisted, amid uproar, in his accusation that she had misled the Commons.

Mr Major declared: "Once again the Labour Party are needlessly alarming people. They will use any scare at any time for any reason, providing they believe it will help their own party political ambitions."

The Labour leadership eagerly seized the chance to bring health to the forefront of the local elections campaign after disclosures yesterday that a 73-year-old chronic arthritis sufferer in East Sussex and a 78-year-old in north London requiring treatment for chest pains had apparently been turned away. The ferocity of the Commons exchanges underlined that the health service reforms remains a potent electoral issue.

Mrs Beckett ignited the dispute by referring to the "scandal" of elderly people being denied hospital treatment on the grounds of their age. Mr Major told her she was either "ill-informed or scaremongering." The reports to which she had referred were wholly irresponsible. Neither had been refused treatment and they had been offered better options, he said.



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Transplanted cells bring hope of a cure for diabetes

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS believe they may have found a cure for diabetes after a remarkable breakthrough in a patient who suffered from a severe version of the disease.

The 38-year-old American, who had suffered from diabetes for 30 years and was going blind as a result, has been transformed by an operation to transplant insulin-producing cells. Nine months after his operation he no longer needs daily injections of insulin and for the first time in ten years is back in full-time work.

There are an estimated 250,000 insulin-dependent diabetics in the UK, and about 20 million worldwide, many of whom suffer serious side effects as a result of their condition. The medical journal *The Lancet*, a cautious professional journal not known for making sensational claims, carries a report of the case in tomorrow's issue. This says the technique "might herald a cure for insulin-dependent diabetes" and describes the man's "transformation in health" as "testimony to its success".

The British Diabetic Association said it was the first time a diabetic patient had managed without daily insulin injections for so long after a transplant of this kind. "We look forward to the time when this early research success is repeated in other patients and this possible cure becomes more of a reality," said Dr Moira Murphy, research director.

The American team, led by Dr Patrick Soon-Shiong at St Vincent Medical Centre, Los

Angeles, transplanted insulin-producing cells from the pancreases of dead donors into the man's abdominal cavity where they have continued to produce the hormone, which is essential for depressing blood sugar levels.

Attempts at transplantation over the past 20 years have failed because the transplanted cells, called islets of Langerhans, have been rejected by the body's immune system. The St Vincent team has overcome this problem by encapsulating the cells in a membrane, which allows the small molecules of insulin to pass out into the bloodstream but prevents the large antibodies, activated by the body's immune system, from passing in to kill the cells.

If successful in other patients, the new treatment will revolutionise the lives of sufferers who have to inject themselves daily with insulin. The St Vincent team says their patient had more energy, felt better and could walk further after treatment. The shooting pains in his feet eased and his ulcers healed faster.

Professor Edwin Gale, head of the department of diabetes at St Bartholomew's Hospital, said the transplant was unlikely to survive more than a year or two "but even that is a very important step forward". Experiments in dogs have shown that the transplant can be repeated regularly. Professor Gale said the shortage of human donors might be overcome by using cells from the pancreases of pigs. Pig insulin is already used to treat human patients with diabetes.

Serbs defy Nato jets to shell Tuzla

BY JOEL BRAND

BOSNIAN Serbs yesterday launched an aggressive campaign of attrition against the United Nations peacekeeping force in an apparent retaliation for allied air strikes earlier in the week.

In three separate incidents the Bosnian Serbs brought a tank out of hiding in the Sarajevo heavy weapons exclusion zone, shelled the UN-controlled Tuzla airfield and abducted 15 Canadian peacekeepers at gun point.

Nato jets buzzed Bosnian Serb units after they shelled the Muslim enclave of Tuzla and earlier overflew the tank. Serb soldiers also threatened to use force to retrieve heavy weapons placed under UN control around Sarajevo, raising the possibility of an armed clash and fresh air strikes.

The actions drew a warning from President Clinton. "The Serbs would be making a mistake to start treating UN and Nato forces as adversarial combatants." Page 10

Murder hunt GP arrested

A British doctor wanted by police in connection with the murder of his daughter was awaiting extradition from France last night after he was arrested at the end of a high-speed car chase. His white Volvo car had been seen on a cross-Channel ferry.

Dr Patrick Alesworth, 48, disappeared shortly before his daughter Sarah, 20, was found at the family home in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, on Wednesday night... Page 3

Hunting for Perfection



Delighted by his agility. — A nifty fox trots across a field. A daring leap over a blackthorn hedge. A splendid vault over the bone-idle Alsatian and the prized ale is mine!

Historical note. — This particular bold escapade is recorded in modern Typing Pool folklore, viz. "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog."

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Old made to wait, page 6

Tories warned of leadership battle's dire consequences

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

A SENIOR Tory MP last night warned his party that it would go into opposition for a decade if it tried to push John Major out of office.

Tristan Garel-Jones, the former Foreign Office minister who piloted the Maastricht Bill through the Commons, declared that Mr Major would "fight like an alley cat" to stay in his job.

If push came to shove the overwhelming majority of MPs would fight with him and for him, and there would be "blood all over the floor".

He added: "The Tory party would certainly go into opposition for a decade."

Coming from an MP with a reputation as a behind-the-scenes fixer, Mr Garel-Jones's remarks represented a graphic public recognition of the threat to Mr Major from within the party. They came in an article in the *Evening Standard* in which Mr Garel-Jones warned Tory dissidents that if they wanted to get Mr Major out of office they would "have to prise his fingernails off the door knocker".

The former deputy chief whip called on Mr Major to carry out an extensive reshuffle before the forthcoming local and European elections. "He should indulge himself. Forget about party balance

and go for talent and the team he feels comfortable with. It should strike fear into the hearts of some. Some existing ministers could ease the process along by simply asking to be relieved. There is a life outside government. A timely departure is better than a humiliating dismissal."

On Mr Major he said: "Let us be clear what is at stake. It is not whether John Major is capable of being Prime Minister, but rather whether the parliamentary party is capable of supporting an administration. He must put them to the test. If the party fails that test then the sooner we go into opposition the better."

The former minister said his instinct would be to have the reshuffle before the elections. "They are unlikely to be a triumph for the party (mid-term elections never are) and an extensive reshuffle in their wake could be portrayed as a panic measure by his critics."

He suggested the whips should be allowed to get tough with the dissidents. "They should be let off the leash."

He added: "No section of the party must be allowed to indulge itself." He said the Tories' European agenda was largely going by default because 30 or 40 "of our colleagues" were seeking to turn their backs on the platform on which the party had stood for 20 years.

"Today's Conservative Party contains within it a raft of thoughtful young politicians. They know that this difficult and complex world is one of real promise for the British people and for them. They want to be in government, not in opposition. The Prime Minister is at his best when he follows his own instincts. Now is the time to set the instincts free."



Garel-Jones: whips should be let off leash

Major rebuffed, page 1
Letters, page 17



David Evans with his wife Janice, in whose name many a Prime Minister's question time has been enlivened

Janice and John take centre stage in David's theatre of the absurd



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH



The stuffier element in the Parliamentary Conservative Party will this morning be deploring yesterday's performance at Prime Minister's questions by David Evans (C, Weymouth).

Your sketchwriter is not among them.

This sketch takes the view that if you want people to perform with wet sponges, funny noses and custard pies, you might as well recruit a proper clown to do it.

Mr Evans, at least, is a professional. Yesterday he had us in stitches.

Mr Evans asked the Prime Minister to explain something to his wife. "Janice wants to know," he began, as Tories giggled, "whether it was the Conservative Party that won the last four elections, with a record 14 million votes in the last?"

MPs pinned back their ears, for Evans had started quietly and he never ends quietly. There was more, much more, to come.

Labour groaned. This was not the first time Janice Evans had starred in parliamentary

exchanges. Her husband celebrated her recent return from hospital by treating John Major to a range of her views, which bear a remarkable resemblance to Mr Evans's own opinions.

So carried away did he become that Mr Evans strayed from the subject of his wife, to be advised sharply by Madam Speaker to "stay with Janice".

Alas, Miss Boothroyd's advice does not seem to have sunk in. Yesterday Mr Evans stayed with Janice only moments longer. He had one more question on which he told the Prime Minister his wife needed Number 10's advice: "Will he also tell Janice whether it was a Conservative Government which, in 1978, imposed a new, high rate of tax?"

MPs scratched their heads. As the Conservatives did not win power until 1979, David could surely have told Janice,

on his own authority, that they were unlikely to have been setting tax rates in 1978. Had there been a breakdown of trust in the Evans household? Did Janice now treat even the simplest statements from her husband with suspicion?

Requiring the Prime Minister, in the presence of the whole House of Commons, to back him up, seemed to be over-egging the pudding.

Shrewder onlookers realised that this could not be all. Evans was only on the preliminaries. He had not yet reached a deafening yell, he was only shouting. His face was only moderately puce. He was still on the runway.

Then came lift-off. Janice was left behind as Mr Evans established the level of Labour's top rate of tax. "Was it 60 pence in the pound?" he yelled to Mr Major, across a

sea of tittering Tories. "Not!"

"Was it 70 pence?"

"No!"

"Was it 90 pence?"

"No!"

"Was it 98 pence?"

"YES!" Grinning, the Prime Minister told Evans he could safely remind Janice of that.

David Evans is much cleverer than he pretends, but his native wisdom probably does not extend to Latin. If Janice is a classicist she will certainly have hidden this from her husband or he would never have proposed.

The phrase *reductio ad absurdum* may not, therefore, often cross the Evans breakfast table. But, truly, yesterday's Prime Minister's questions were the *reductio ad absurdum* of what PM's questions are these days coming to represent.

Janice, being the means by which this was accomplished, was the *reductio*. Mr Evans is the *absurdum*. Harold Macmillan is turning in his grave.

But at least the Member for Weymouth Hatfield made us laugh.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police chiefs press for pepper sprays

Chief constables yesterday urged Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to issue pepper gas sprays to officers to protect them from criminals using firearms and knives. With concern throughout police ranks at the ease with which criminals can get guns, senior officers said they wanted the sprays to be a key part of the police armoury.

They made it clear that they were losing patience with the Home Office requirement of lengthy trials of new protective equipment. Chief constables have been pressing officials to start immediate trials of pepper gas sprays, which cost £2 each. They are widely used in the United States. When sprayed into an offender's face, it disorients them for about one minute. The pepper gas spray affects eyes, nose and breathing as the mucous membranes swell, and causes an intense burning sensation. The spray leaves its victims as helpless as a baby, according to one senior officer. The pressure on the Home Secretary over the sprays came from chief constables attending the Association of Chief Police Officers' quarterly council meeting in London.

Trainee feared drowned

A teenager who fell overboard from a sail training ship in freezing waters off Liverpool Bay yesterday is believed to have drowned. An extensive search failed to find any sign of Jerry O'Toole, 18, from Birkenhead. Coastguards said that the search — involving two helicopters, four lifeboats, support vessels and fishing boats — began in an area 15 miles out to sea at 7.00am and was called off at 4.00pm. Mr O'Toole was among a crew of forty 16 to 24-year-olds aboard the 218-tonne Sail Training Association schooner *Malcolm Miller* as it approached the end of a 12-day cruise.

Cardiff Bay plan threat

Brussels may block the construction of a £200 million barrage across the entrance to Cardiff Bay, due to start this summer, unless the Government improves protection for the rare birds whose habitat it will destroy. A leaked letter from Yannis Paleokrassas, the European Environment Commissioner, to John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, says the Government must give special legal protection to all the 28 remaining estuaries in Britain inhabited by dunnets and redshanks. Friends of the Earth said only seven of the estuaries had so far been protected as required by the EC.

Lighthouse woman quits

Britain's only female lighthouse keeper changed her last bulb yesterday at Walney Island, Cumbria. Peggy Braithwaite started as a supernumerary lighthouse keeper in 1948 and became principal keeper on the island in 1975. All Britain's offshore lighthouses will be completely automated by 1998, but onshore Walney Island will continue to be staffed. Mrs Braithwaite's replacement, however, will be a man. "When I was younger I wanted to be a model, but you grow out of childhood ambitions," she said yesterday. "I couldn't have had a better life anywhere else."

Egg-throwing charge

The Health Secretary could be called to give evidence in the trial of two women alleged to have thrown an egg at her. Lawyers for Penny Kay, 51, and Rheta Moran, 34, want Virginia Bottomley to be called as a defence witness. Mrs Bottomley was hit by an egg on her back and hair during a visit to Trafford General Hospital last month. Ms Kay, a retired medical secretary, and Ms Moran, a researcher at Manchester University, pleaded not guilty yesterday to a public order offence. They were remanded on unconditional police bail until May 12, when a pre-trial review will be held.

Boxer declared bankrupt



The former world boxing champion Alan Minter, left, has been declared bankrupt after an application by the NatWest Bank over an undisclosed sum. It is the latest business problem for the former middleweight. When he retired, Minter, 42, of Crawley, Sussex, invested in a wine bar and a sports club. Alan Minter Enterprises was put into liquidation in 1985 and he now owns pubs, restaurants and shops.

Student death enquiry

A Cambridge University student has been found dead seven weeks before sitting her final examinations. Tests are being carried out to discover whether Eke Onwere, 21, from Nigeria, killed herself, was the victim of an accident or died naturally. Miss Onwere, a third-year law undergraduate at Downing College, was found dead on Wednesday morning.

D-Day events attacked

The Royal British Legion has written to the Prime Minister complaining that the 50th anniversary of D-Day in June has become a political event and not an act of remembrance. The veterans said the time for celebration should be next year, on the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. On Wednesday John Major announced plans for events across the country.

Hoover holiday plea

Disgruntled customers of the Hoover free-flights offer are asking the company for vouchers to spend at high-street travel agents. The Hoover Holiday Pressure Group will also ask that the offer's expiry date be extended. Hoover yesterday dropped its appeal against a court settlement last December and paid Robert Charlton, from Bolton, £261.

Rats thrive on fast food

There are rats in nearly one in 20 homes in England and Wales, according to the Institution of Environmental Health Officers, which says there has been a significant increase in the past 15 years and that some rats are becoming resistant to poisons. Researchers believe fast-food litter on streets may be a factor behind the increase.

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Upbeat Clarke predicts fastest economic recovery in Europe

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN will have the fastest growing economy in Western Europe this year and next, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, predicted yesterday. In his most upbeat assessment of recent weeks Mr Clarke said the recovery was steadily strengthening.

Speaking against the background of sharply improved trade figures, he said: "There has been an ever increasing flow of information showing that we are on course for low inflation and that the recovery is steadily strengthening. I think it is quite clear I took the right judgment in the Budget last November; quite clear that I took the right decision on interest rates in February. We are well set to be the fastest growing economy in Western Europe in this year and the year after that."

The Chancellor's forecast came the day after it was revealed that he and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, had clashed

over the quarter-point cut in interest rates announced on February 8. Mr Clarke had wanted a half-point cut to boost growth; Mr George no cut at all because of his worries about inflation.

Mr Clarke faced some opposition in the Cabinet yesterday over his decision to disclose details of interest rate discussions. One senior minister is understood to have questioned whether he intended to reveal details not only about short-term decisions but about the even more delicate question of long-range policy. Fears were voiced that such a move might wipe off or add billions to share prices. Mr Clarke, supported by the Prime Minister and a big majority of ministers, is reported to have said that the timing of the change was right for the Treasury and for the Bank.

In the Commons Sir Peter Tapsell (C, Lindsey E) said the disclosure could help speculators. "This is almost certain to

have an unsettling effect on bond, stock and currency markets. When these disputes become public... that could easily lead to an immediate collapse of the gilt market and a large inflow of hot money into sterling."

At a press conference Mr Clarke said: "My current feeling, looking at the eight weeks since, is that the governor was being too cautious from his starting position and I was being too cautious from mine."

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, told Mr Clarke in the Commons: "When, in January, you were saying in public that the recovery was becoming robust, in private we now know that you were telling the governor that it was feeble. How can this country ever trust you, not just on tax but on anything you ever say about the management of the economy?"

Peter Riddell, page 9

Firms to run roads they build

By TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATISATION of the motorway network moved closer yesterday when the Government invited companies to bid for designing, building, financing and operating roads. In return for running the roads they build, construction companies and City institutions could be paid according to the traffic using them.

John MacGregor, the Transport Secretary, said the plan would help to deliver the road programme faster while

transferring a share of the risk to the private sector. More than 20 schemes, from £10 million to £350 million, including the controversial widening of the London orbital M25, could be included.

Mr MacGregor sees the creation of a roads-operating industry as an interim measure leading up to nationwide motorway-charging schemes in five or six years.

He believes that linking payment to the number of cars

will provide an incentive for speedy construction and cost-efficient maintenance. Schemes that might interest companies include the new M1-A1 link in Yorkshire, the widening of the M6 between Birmingham and Lancashire, and the M23 near Gatwick.

The British Road Federation said the "shadow tolling" could deliver some road improvements years earlier than waiting for the Treasury to fund them conventionally.

Bishop in vigil for poll defeat of BNP

By ANDREW FIERCE

A PRAYER vigil for the defeat of the British National Party in the local authority elections is to be led by the Bishop of Stepney on polling day.

Six BNP candidates are standing in Tower Hamlets, east London, on May 5 and they have high hopes of capturing the Isle of Dogs. The BNP won a by-election on the island in September.

The Rt Rev Richard Chartres, the Bishop of Stepney, will hold a lunchtime vigil at Christ Church on the Isle of Dogs. Anglican vicars in the borough have agreed to provide transport to take voters to the polling stations in a determined attempt to thwart the advance of the BNP.

The bishop said: "It is vital that everyone who is entitled to vote does so. All that is necessary for wrong to triumph is for good people to do nothing. We must by all fair and democratic means defeat the BNP."

The bishop rejected accusations from some Liberal Democrat and Tory activists in Tower Hamlets that he was meddling in politics. He said: "I have studied the BNP manifesto carefully. The BNP goes far beyond the party political spectrum. 'If you call yourself a Christian you cannot ignore Christ's teaching of 'love your neighbour'. Any party or organisation that is deliberately stirring up hatred against another group is not behaving in a Christian manner. They must not be supported.'"

London call, page 9

How a combat pilot's nightmare came true

Continued from page 1 ment carried by every allied aircraft is triggered automatically when "targeted" by a friendly radar. By sending out a signal on pre-arranged secret code, the IFF equipment tells the radar in the attacking aircraft the target is friendly. If there is no response, the attacker can attack, go in close to identify the aircraft positively, or radio his base for confirmation of what the "intruder" really is. With their main base hundreds of miles

away at Incirlik in southern Turkey, the pilots of the F15s had freedom to decide whether to launch an attack. Their only assistance would have come from a high-flying Awacs radar aircraft.

Planes and helicopters legitimately in the no-fly zone are equipped with a painted spot which sends a return signal identifying themselves as part of Operation Provide Comfort. There are 4,096 codes in four modes, and it may be a question of whether

the challengers and the Black Hawks were using the same codes," Mr Lambert said. "If the Awacs or some other observer misidentified them as Hinds, it is possible the American jets them moved in too quickly."

The helicopters should have filed a flight plan, especially as they were operating in such a dangerous area and had so many senior staff on board. They may not have had the IFF switched on.

Any fully trained pilot getting close to a Black Hawk helicopter should be able to see immediately that it is nothing like a Russian-built Hind, whose ugly shape has been pinned on the wall of every Nato air force mess and training room for years.

The area of the no-fly zone is probably divided into zones, and it is possible that different IFF codes operate in different sectors. "It could also be that they were in the wrong zone," said Mr Lambert, "or the IFF may not have been working."

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Doctor halted by gendarmes at roadblock close to port after ferry passenger recognised his car

French arrest GP sought after daughter's killing

By Bill Frost

A BRITISH doctor wanted after the murder of his daughter at the family home in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, was arrested by French police yesterday.

Dr Patrick Alesworth was taken into custody in Ploubalay, close to the ferry port of St Malo in Brittany. He was stopped at a roadblock 20 km from the port.

Earlier, an attempt to detain the doctor in St Malo as he left the overnight ferry from Portsmouth failed. The registration number of his Volvo estate had been recognised by a

officers also had talks with the local gendarmerie, but it was unclear last night whether formal extradition proceedings would be necessary, a spokesman for the Thames Valley force said.

A post-mortem examination carried out yesterday on Dr Alesworth's 20-year-old daughter Sarah, a catering student home on holiday from a college in Bournemouth, found that she had died from multiple head wounds. She had been battered with a blunt instrument.

Jesse, the family's spaniel, had also been killed, repeatedly bludgeoned on the head and about the body.

Police were called to the house in an affluent suburb of Aylesbury by the doctor's wife just before 4pm on Wednesday. She had returned from work to find her daughter Sarah dead in an upstairs bedroom and smoke swirling through the ground floor. Gas taps had also been turned on in the house.

Jane Alesworth had met her husband on the doorstep as she arrived home. According to detectives he was distressed and the couple argued before he ran to her car and drove away at speed.

Mrs Alesworth was yesterday said to be devastated by the death of her daughter. Police informed her yesterday afternoon that her husband had been arrested in France. Mrs Alesworth and her two other daughters were being comforted by relatives.

Alan Silver, Sarah's former headmaster, described her as



Dr Patrick Alesworth, left, who was arrested yesterday, and a policeman standing guard outside his house in Aylesbury. A fire had been started in the room on the right



6 Sarah was a delightful young woman, with a very pleasant personality. We are all shocked at what has happened

passenger who heard a radio news bulletin about the murder just before the vessel docked.

Two detectives from Thames Valley Police arrived in St Malo last night to interview Dr Alesworth. "We will be liaising with our French colleagues to decide what will happen," Ch Insp John Reeve, a spokesman for the force, said. "We are very anxious to interview him about what happened." The

a delightful young woman. "She was very sporty with a very pleasant personality. We are all shocked at what has happened," he said.

Dr Alesworth retired from his group practice in Aylesbury last November. Dr Gill Beck, one his former colleagues, said yesterday: "I think that all GPs are stressed at the moment. This is a

dreadful tragedy. We are all saddened and shocked by what has happened — I just can't believe it. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family."

"I last spoke to Dr Alesworth about three or four weeks ago — we were planning to go out for dinner together. He seemed very well in himself," Dr Alesworth had

worked at the practice for 18 years. Since Christmas he is believed to have been doing locum work and seeing a few private patients.

Dr Beck described the Alesworths as a very close and very supportive family. Staff at the practice were yesterday counselling patients who had been on Dr Alesworth's list. A local hospi-

tal has also offered to set up a similar service. "Patients are very depressed by what has happened," Dr Beck said.

Neighbours on the quiet estate where the family live also expressed their grief, shock and amazement at the death of Sarah Alesworth. Greta Morgan, a nurse who had worked with Dr Alesworth, said: "I am so

utterly shocked by this. We used to work together 20 years ago before we became neighbours."

"He is a very private and reserved man. What has happened is utterly beyond my understanding."

Mary Kempster, another neighbour, said she first realised something was wrong on Wednesday afternoon when

clouds of smoke billowed from the back of the Alesworth home. "This is all so horrifying," she said. "Dr Alesworth used to treat my daughter for recurrent tonsillitis when she was young. He was lovely, really nice."

"Sarah was always very nice too. Whenever you saw her she would smile and laugh and say hello."

West faces tenth charge after first wife found

By Robin Young

FREDERICK West, the Gloucester builder accused of murdering nine women, was yesterday charged with the murder of a tenth, his first wife Catherine.

The remains believed to be those of Mrs West, who was born Catherine Costello and known as Rena, were unearthed last Sunday from Letterbox field, Kempey, Herefordshire, near the village of Much Marcle where she and her husband lived. Mrs West had been missing for 23 years.

Mr West, 52, already faces nine charges alleging the murder of young women over a 14-year period to 1987. His alleged victims include his daughter, Heather, 16.

Det Supt John Bennett of Gloucester police said yesterday that Mr West would face the tenth murder charge when he appeared before magistrates on May 5. He said the Wests were married in 1962 and a daughter, Charmaine, was born the following year, and another, Anne Marie in 1964.

Mrs West was apparently last seen in Gloucestershire in 1969 although police are seeking confirmation of sightings in 1971. Her daughter Anne Marie lives in Gloucester. But there are no known whereabouts of Charmaine, who was last seen 17 years ago, aged 14.

Mr West married his second wife, Rosemary, 40, in 1972. She was arrested with him at the end of February and later released on bail. Heather was his daughter.

David Gibbons, the Gloucester coroner, yesterday accepted formal identification evidence on the nine sets of remains found at 25 Cromwell Street.

Victim's mother too late to stop her walking home

By Paul Wilkinson

ON THE day that Susan Maxwell disappeared her mother changed her mind about allowing her to walk home alone from a tennis club for the first time and set off to meet her, a court was told yesterday.

Lt Maxwell drove to the club to find it locked. In a statement to the court trying Robert Black for the kidnap and murder of three girls between 1982 and 1986, she told of the frantic search that followed.

"At 4.40pm I thought I had better collect her from the club rather than allow her to walk back and I left home in my car. I arrived at the club in Coldstream at 4.50pm and she had obviously left because the club was locked up."

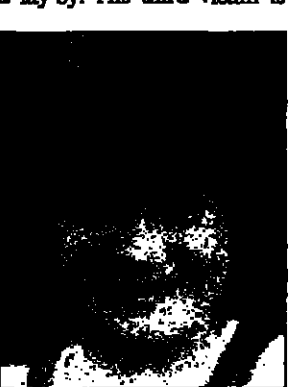
She said she was unable to find her 11-year-old daughter and went to the home of Alison Rayburn, with whom she had been playing, but the two girls had not been seen. Mrs Maxwell said she searched the area and returned to her home on the other side of the border at Cornhill on Tweed, Northumberland at about 5.20pm.

On her return, Alison's mother telephoned to say that she had arrived home and that Susan had left at 4pm. The two girls had parted outside the police station in Coldstream and Susan had indicated she was going straight home. "She knew we were going out to visit another farm that evening," Mrs Maxwell said. "I telephoned relatives and friends where Susie might have gone and at 5.30pm my husband telephoned the police."

She described Susan as a cautious child who was obedient and would let her parents know her whereabouts. "This was the first time she had been given permission to walk back from Coldstream alone."

The last time she saw her

daughter alive was when Susan left home at 2pm, a little early, because she was being given a lift by a farm worker. John Milford QC, for the prosecution, told the court that the crown's case was that Susan was the first victim of Mr Black, 46, who abducted her as she walked home on a hot summer's day in July 1982.



Susan Maxwell: "a cautious child"

alleged to be Sarah Harper, 10, who disappeared as she returned home from a corner shop 200 yards from her house in Morley, Leeds, on the evening of March 26, 1986.

Sarah's mother Jackie had sent her out about 8pm to buy a loaf of bread from the corner shop. She was seen in the shop before setting off home. "That journey was no distance at all," Mr Milford said. "But like Susan Maxwell she disappeared into thin air."

One witness, Mr Milford told the jury, would tell them of seeing a man in the shop aged about 35 who was balding and stockily built. That man has never been traced.

Mr Milford said that on that same day Black had left

London to make deliveries in the Midlands and West Yorkshire. He had made five deliveries in Leeds one of which had been to a depot near Sarah's home.

Sarah's body was found in the River Trent at Wilford near Nottingham two weeks later.

Mr Milford then turned to the attempted kidnapping in 1988 of Teresa Thornhill, a 15-year-old girl living in Nottingham. She had just left a boy friend and was walking along the street when she saw a van with the bonnet up and the driver looking into the engine. "The driver grabbed her in a bear hug and made a determined attempt to pull her into the van," Mr Milford said.

He said Teresa was small for her age, she was about 4ft 10in, of slight build, and looked like a child. However, she put up a struggle and her attacker fled when her boy friend ran to her assistance.

The girl's description of her attacker's appearance and accent matched those of Mr Black, Mr Milford said. He then produced pictures from a security video camera on a nearby bank, which showed the girl running away from the scene and the van driving away. A vehicle expert would say that it was a long-wheel-base Ford transit like the one driven by Black.

Mr Milford said that a check of Mr Black's delivery record showed that he had been that day to a depot only a few streets away.

Black, 47, a delivery driver from Stamford Hill, north London, has denied nine charges arising from the kidnap and deaths of Sarah, Susan Maxwell, 11, in July 1982 and Caroline Hogg, five, a year later. He has also denied the abduction of Teresa Thornhill.

The trial continues.



Kirsty missed her friends

Suicide of a bullied schoolgirl

By Andrew Pierce

A GIRL hounded from her school by bullies, hanged herself in her bedroom when her parents' marriage broke up.

Kirsty Hayhoe, 13, had settled into Blyth Jex school and became captain of the hockey team when her parents separated, an inquest in Norwich was told yesterday. She left a note: "To mum and dad: I am sorry but I cannot handle how my life was." Her estranged parents Gillian, 40, and David, 37, had attempted suicide last year.

Gillian Hayhoe, who had returned home for a week-end after psychiatric treatment, said: "Kirsty resented the fact her father had another woman. We all had a heated discussion."

James Hipwell, the coroner, recording a suicide verdict, said: "It is a tragedy of our present way of living that in a school where people are under stress they have been known to take some tragic action. There was bullying and she was moved. She missed her friends and there is no doubt the situation escalated with the marriage crisis."

The hearing continues.

Video 'withheld in M50 murder trial'

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

POLICE withheld a video recording which could have helped a man accused of killing Marie Wilks after her car broke down on the M50 in 1988, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

A detective knowingly kept the vital evidence from both prosecution and defence lawyers involved in the case of Eddie Browning, a nightclub bouncer who was found guilty of abducting and stabbing to death Mrs Wilks, who was seven months pregnant.

Michael Mansfield, QC, accused Detective Chief Inspector Anthony Stanley of West Mercia police of deliberately not disclosing the recording made of a key witness when he was being interviewed.

The witness, Inspector Peter Clarke, also of West Mercia police, was said to have been put under hypnosis by a psychiatrist, Dr Una Maguire, to jog his memory about a car he saw on the hard shoulder behind Mrs Wilks's vehicle.

In the interviews, Mr Clarke spoke of a car that was not a hatchback which had chrome bumpers and a registration number C856 HFK. But Mr Mansfield told the Appeal Court yesterday Browning's hatchback Renault 25 had plastic bumpers and the registration number C754 VAD.

The video recording was not disclosed at the trial of Browning, 41, of Cwmparc, Rhonda, by Shrewsbury Crown Court in November 1989. He was convicted of murdering Mrs Wilks and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mr Mansfield said that at the trial, Mr Clarke had simply said that he was sure the car he saw had a C in the registration but he could not remember the rest of the number.

Mr Mansfield told the appeal that Mr Clarke had been

afraid of "regenerating" the guilt he had felt at driving past a murder scene by "running the risk of exculpating the man in the dock". The defence had been deprived of material which could have excluded Browning's car from the picture or cast doubt on Mr Clarke's recollection.

The existence of the video had not come to light until two years after the trial when Dr Maguire mentioned it at a Crown Prosecution Service conference. Mr Mansfield told the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, sitting with Mr Justice Garland and Mr Justice Curtis.

Earlier Timothy Barnes,



Marie Wilks: was murdered in 1988

QC, for the Crown, agreed with Lord Taylor that non-disclosure of the video evidence was an irregularity. But the hypnosis evidence was "worthless", he said, and did not undermine Mr Clarke's testimony. There was sufficient other evidence to support Browning's conviction.

The Police Complaints Authority announced yesterday it had recommended disciplinary charges of neglect of duty be brought against two senior West Mercia officers, one now retired. The two do not include Mr Clarke.

The hearing continues.

Hunt major denies he lost temper at protest

MAJOR Richard Grieve denied yesterday that he lost his temper when he attacked a hunt saboteur with a whip, splitting his head open.

Grieve, who served for 28 years with the Royal Artillery, told York Crown Court: "My cool has been tested in my army life many, many times. I am not a person who loses his temper."

Major Grieve, 50, of Beckwithshaw, North Yorkshire, denies maliciously wounding the protester, David Callender, on the final day of the Middleton Hunt last April.

Cross-examined by Peter Johnson, for the prosecution, he said that he had undertaken several tours of duty in Northern Ireland and had often been engaged with demonstrators. He had also been in the Gulf War and had always kept calm when in tense situations, as he had done on the day of the hunt, despite provocation from the protesters.

Mr Callender, 35, of Rhyddu, Gwynedd, said that he was among 80 protesters intending to disrupt fox-hunting when Major Grieve, without provocation, hit him from behind with his hunting whip. His head was split to the bone and, bleeding profusely, he was taken to hospital for several stitches.

Major Grieve said that he thought Callender was about to dismount a colleague during the noisy and ill-organised demonstration and instinctively lashed out with his whip.

"I didn't gauge the force of the blow. After it had happened, two girl agitators began screaming hysterically and called me every name under the sun. I then rode off to call an ambulance."

The case continues.

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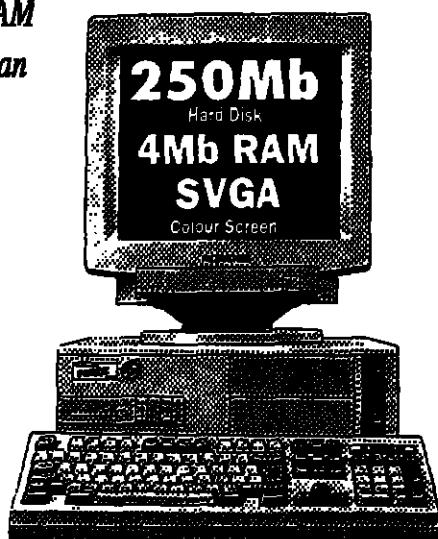
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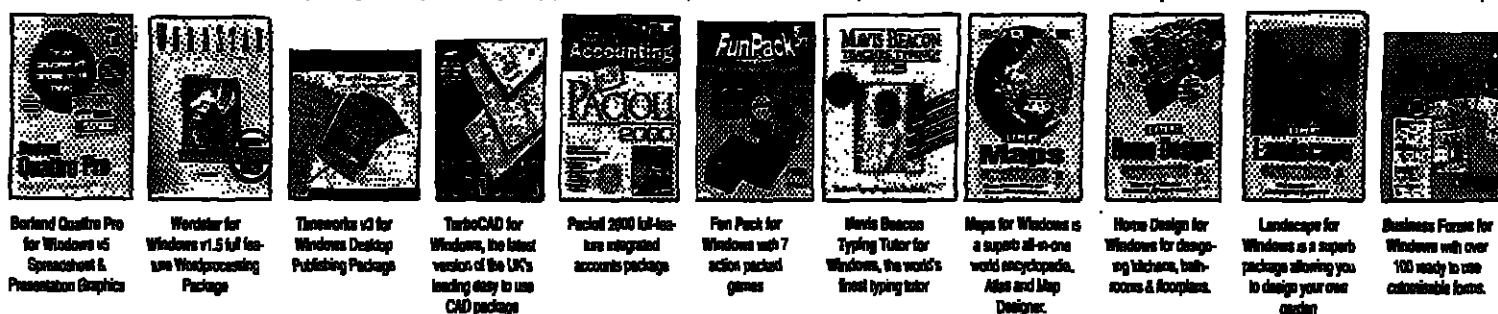
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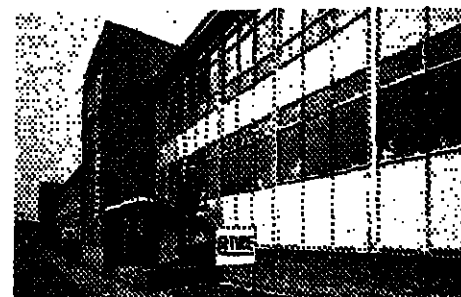
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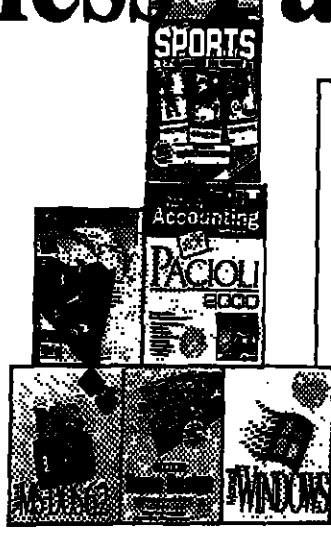
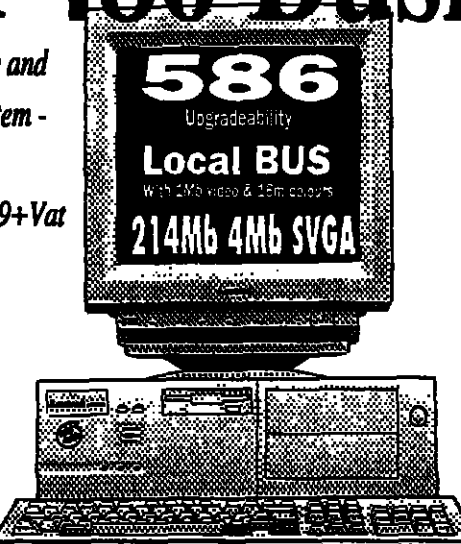


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MI5 chief and Bottomley 'on hit-list at IRA bomb factory'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the Health Secretary, and Stella Rimington, head of MI5, were on IRA hit-lists found in a London flat which had been turned into a bomb factory, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Also found in the flat were two Semtex bombs prepared and ready to be planted at the capital's Monument and Bank Underground stations, the court was told.

The flat belonged to Patrick Hayes, an English recruit to the IRA who allegedly planted the Semtex bomb which exploded in a litter bin outside the Harrods store in January last year, injuring four people and causing nearly £500,000 damage, it was alleged.

Mr Hayes, 41, was arrested five weeks later after being identified from security camera videos. In a jacket at the flat at Stoke Newington, police found a CS gas canister and a wallet containing a notebook.

The notebook allegedly included the private home telephone number of Mrs Bottomley and references to an undisclosed minister of state, an MP, Conservative Central Office, a Stock Exchange meeting, retired and current senior civil servants, a former head of the Prime Minister's policy unit, a director of British Nuclear Fuels, an army recruitment office, military targets and eight hotels in central London.

On scraps of newspaper were references to Mrs Rimington, and on cigarette papers found inside the dustbag of a vacuum cleaner were the names of three senior military figures that were not disclosed in open court. The jury was told that some of the



Details on Mrs Bottomley, left, and Mrs Rimington "found at a London flat"

information on the alleged targets was culled from the *Shooting Times & Country Magazine*.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, said: "It's difficult to place these names and people other than as a selective list of targets for terrorist activity. It is the prosecution case that amongst his other activities, Hayes was on the look-out for suitable targets, whether public buildings or public figures, to blow up or to provide information for others to blow up."

On the second day of the trial it was alleged that Mr

Hayes, who has refused to plead to 11 charges on the grounds that they are "political matters", conspired to bomb the 800ft Canary Wharf tower in London's Docklands on November 15, 1992.

A 1.6 ton fertiliser bomb left by a gunman and his accomplice in a blue transit van close to the second tallest building in Europe would have caused "destruction which hardly bears thinking about", the court was told.

But the bomb, which was discovered by three security guards patrolling the area after they had stopped the two

men, failed to go off when the device's detonators malfunctioned.

Mr Hayes, unemployed, is charged with three counts of conspiracy to cause explosions at Canary Wharf, in Tottenham Court Road and in the car park at Woodside Park Underground station.

He and Jan Taylor, 51, a former British Army soldier, are jointly charged with causing the Harrods explosion, the bombing of a London Victoria train to Ramsgate, conspiracy to cause other unspecified explosions, possessing explosives and possessing two pis-

toles and two AKM assault rifles. Mr Bevan told the court that anti-terrorist officers found weapons, ammunition and bomb-making equipment littering the floor of Mr Hayes's flat, which he and Mr Taylor were trying to leave when arrested. "The game was up and frantic attempts were being made to deal with property," he said.

Enough Semtex for eight more bombs was found in three cardboard boxes in the ground-floor flat, including two bombs prepared for planting at the Bank and Monument stations. The two defendants allegedly planned these bombings only hours after the successful bombing of the 9.05am train to Ramsgate.

Police found in the flat two time and power units in boxes on which were written the words "Bank" and "Mon". On February 3, six hours after the train bombing, IRA warnings about the Tube bombings were telephoned by a man using an Irish accent. For unknown reasons the attacks never took place and were subsequently disregarded until the discovery of the devices on March 2, 1993.

In Mr Hayes's flat police also found literature which included *Troops Out of Ireland*, *Red Action*, a copy of the *Irish Republican News*, anti-fascist literature, a book on how to exercise rights in a police station, a booklet called *Without a Trace* on how to avoid leaving forensic evidence, and another booklet called *Urban Terrorism*.

In a garage rented by Mr Hayes in Finchley, North London, police found a cache of more than half a ton of home-made explosives. The trial continues today.

Vatican allows women to be servers for Mass

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Vatican is to allow women and girls to serve at the altar during Mass, it was disclosed yesterday.

The ruling, included in a letter sent to Roman Catholic bishops around the world, was welcomed as a step towards the eventual acceptance of women priests in the Catholic Church.

However, the Vatican has denied this conclusion and insisted that the question was one of pastoral practice and not of doctrine.

Sister Myra Poole, of Catholic Women's Ordination, the Catholic campaign for women priests, said: "It is a significant step because it makes women visible on the altar. This brings them nearer the ordained role."

Sr Poole, a member of St Joan's Alliance, a Catholic equal rights organisation, said: "I am delighted. This is a breaking down of the invisibility of women, who have not been used as altar servers in Britain before."

Women are already allowed to read from the Bible during Mass and to distribute communion.

They were excluded from serving at the altar by Vatican instructions before the 1983 Code of Canon Law, which allows a more liberal interpretation.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, a Vatican spokesman, said the new ruling was an interpretation of existing church law and not an innovation. He emphasised that the decision resolved a pastoral and not a doctrinal question.

Altar servers assist priests in ceremonial functions, such as presenting them with the bread and wine, and washing and drying their hands.

Many priests say that they received their calling while they were altar boys, and conservative Catholics fear that girl servers might similarly aspire to join the priesthood.

Although some Catholic priests in Britain have already been using young girls as altar servers, none is thought to have used adult women. However, priests on the continent, particularly in Belgium and Holland, have often used both girls and women as altar servers.

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Saturday, April 9th, 1994

Mr Major's anniversary

It is two years since Mr John Major surprised everyone by winning the general election. The Prime Minister fought the 1992 campaign as the underdog. Polls suggested that there might be a hung parliament.

The Conservative campaign was bungled. During its final stages Mr Major was derided for his recourse to a soap box at meetings. In the event, he led the Tories to an unprecedented fourth victory in a row - and the largest popular vote in history.

The descent since that day of triumph has been precipitate. According to the latest Gallup poll, no prime minister and no government have fallen so far and so quickly out of favour since Gallup began taking soundings of British opinion in the late 1930s.

The prime minister's personal rating is the lowest for any holder of his office since polling began. He is now back on the hustings, partly to demonstrate that he is still a vote winner.

In spite of widespread speculation about possible successors, it is not clear that he should or will be replaced. The balance sheet of his performance is mixed. When he became chancellor in 1989 and prime minister the following year, Mr Major regarded the conquest of inflation as his central economic task. He maintained this position at great political cost, both before and after his election victory.

The prolonged squeeze has had the desired effect. Retail prices, which rose by 9.5 per cent in 1990, are now increasing at a quarter of that rate. The recession, which can be said to have begun to bite with Mr Major's chancellorship (if it isn't hurting, it isn't working), bottomed out two years ago. The recovery is well under way, some would say steadily, others too slowly. The index of industrial production, which fell to 94.5 in January 1992, rose to 100.7 in February, its highest level since a peak of 102.1 in 1990. Although there are still a million more out of work than when Mr Major became chancellor, unemployment is falling. The prime minister's anticipation of a period of sustained non-inflationary growth may be optimistic, but it is not irrational.

It is against this background that the familiar chapter of recent Tory embarrassment must be read. In happier times, back to basics might have been followed by sex scandals without rocking the government. Populist law and order proposals might have been amended in the House of Lords without arousing much comment. The Citizen's charter might have sunk without trace, without cat calls as it did so. The cause of Mr Major's present political weakness is none of these mishaps. His misfortune is that recovery has been faltering, and late. The Labour party has little to crow about. Its present popularity in the polls is only a reflection of the electorate's disenchantment with the Conservatives. Mr John Smith, whose second anniversary as leader is a couple of months away, leads a party with fewer acknowledged policies than it had when Mr Neil Kinnock lost the election in April 1992. Mr Major will always lack charisma and his last two years have been unfortunate, occasionally inept. The leader of the opposition's have been worse: a nullity.

Noble Cause

There are other achievements to his credit. In December he took a significant political risk in a noble cause. Together with the prime minister of Ireland he signed a joint declaration offering Sinn Féin a place at the negotiating table in return for a permanent renunciation of violence. More to the point, Irish republications were offered a united Ireland if they could persuade a majority of the people of Ulster and, separately, the Irish republic to vote for it.

This Advertisement has been paid for by the friends of the Prime Minister

Computer porn 'library' seized at university

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH university is at the centre of an international enquiry into an alleged worldwide computer pornography network after police seized equipment containing large amounts of obscene material.

Police officers swooped on the metal-lurgy department at Birmingham University after information from the United States federal authorities investigating computer pornography.

A male research associate, 25, who works in the department has been questioned by officers from West

Midlands police and Scotland Yard about the haul of material. His home was also raided by officers.

Officers seized a computer with "thousands of files" containing child and adult sex pictures from the university. Pornographic films, magazines and computer material were also allegedly found at the man's address.

Police believe the man, who lives in the Moseley area of Birmingham, was acting as a "librarian" for the explicit images which allegedly include children as young as two years. They do not believe he received any financial gain from his activities.

Pictures taken from hardcore porno-

graphic magazines were transferred on to computer disk. Up to 20 million subscribers to the Internet computer system would have had access to the material if they had known the secret code number.

Investigators in Kentucky hacked into the system and traced the pornographic material to Birmingham University.

Chief Inspector Keith Bassett of West Midlands Police said: "We are not aware of any money changing hands. It seems he was acting as a librarian purely for personal gratification. The material we have viewed so far is pretty dreadful pornography. There is

no way of knowing how many people he had been serving. The possibilities are endless.

"Computer devices were seized containing substantial pornographic material, including depicting children in obscene acts," he said.

A spokesman for the university said the research associate's contract had expired at the end of March and would not be renewed.

He said: "Clearly this is an appalling incident and we will be looking to see if there is anything we can do to insure it never happens again. Everyone involved with the university is very distressed by this."

GP 'tried to hide fatal negligence'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A GP who wrongly prescribed a drug to an asthma sufferer who died shortly afterwards, tried to cover up his mistake by altering his computer records, a court heard yesterday.

Dr Arun Sinha prescribed beta-blocker salbutamol to Sali Anna Camp-Richards, 30, of Cardiff, despite the fact that they are known to be lethal to asthma sufferers. She died after taking only one tablet.

Cardiff Crown Court was told that after her death, Dr Sinha deleted references to her condition on computer records at the Greenmount practice in Ely, and changed other entries in an attempt to justify what he had done. However, he did not realise the information was retained on the computer's hard disk.

Dr Sinha, 39, of Cardiff, denies manslaughter and attempting to pervert the course of justice. John Charles Rees, QC, for the prosecution, told the court Dr Sinha had effectively signed Mrs Camp-Richards's death warrant as only small doses of a beta-blocker can choke an asthmatic by narrowing the airway passages.

He said Dr Sinha behaved in a "monstrous way" after his patient's death.

The trial continues.

Patient died with tube in brain

A WOMAN died after a long plastic tube was mistakenly inserted into her brain rather than her stomach, an inquest was told yesterday.

Zobida Doman, 59, of Willesden, northwest London, was unconscious when the nasogastric tube was inserted into her nose at Central Middlesex Hospital in January after she suffered an epileptic fit. The tube was pushed deep into the soft tissue of her brain.

Doctors believed it was correctly positioned in her stomach. The alarm was raised only when she failed to regain consciousness after 12 hours. Mrs Doman died in hospital four weeks later of pneumonia as a result of contracting meningitis.

John Burton, the Hamersmith coroner, recorded an open verdict. "Her death may have been caused by the tube introducing an infection into the brain and so bringing on the fatal meningitis, but the infection might have already been there," he said.

"We have heard that doctors were surprised at the severity of the meningitis if it had been caused by the tube."

Sister Alison Willis told the court how it had taken three attempts to insert the tube. "The first two went in 10cm. The third went in easily to the length needed to reach down to the stomach," she said.

Former lover of QC claims £32,000 for son

By ADAM FRESKO

A QC's former lover yesterday asked a court to increase the maintenance for their son from £14,500 to £32,000 a year.

Felicity Hammerton, a barrister, who had a 12-month affair with David Cocks while she was studying at his London chambers 18 years ago, said she needed the money to pay for her son's college education, private tuition for his four A-levels, an educational psychologist and everyday needs.

Marylebone magistrates' family proceedings court was told that Mr Cocks, 57, who

reputedly earns £500,000 a year, now pays just over £14,500 in maintenance for their 18-year-old son, also called David. The court was told he had offered to pay £21,500 a year.

Miss Hammerton said in court that she was struggling to make ends meet and has to borrow money from relatives.

Christine Dooley, for Mr Cocks, said he objected to paying for things such as violin and piano lessons in which David was not intending to take exams.

The hearing continues today.



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Specialist confirms 'age limit' for NHS treatment

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING specialist in health care for the elderly has confirmed allegations that older NHS patients are being denied essential hospital treatment because of their age.

John Grimley Evans, professor of geriatric medicine at Oxford University and head of the department of clinical gerontology at the Radcliffe Infirmary, said that surveys showed elderly patients had to wait longer before seeing a specialist and were offered less effective treatments for cancer and heart disease.

Prof Grimley Evans said: "Since one expects older people not to do well if they have cancer, it is easy to overlook the fact that they are actually doing less well because they are getting second-rate treatment."

He said it was worrying that different contracts were being set for geriatric patients: "There is a misapprehension that elderly patients will not benefit from aggressive treatment or will suffer worse side-effects. A survey of coronary

Financial incentives in the NHS internal market may be encouraging hospitals to refuse complicated geriatric cases

care units two years ago showed 20 per cent set an upper age limit for admission between 65 and 75 and 40 per cent had an upper age limit for giving clot-busting drugs."

Prof Grimley Evans added: "In fact there is clear evidence that clot-busting drugs are more effective in the elderly than in younger people."

Age discrimination could worsen in the new NHS unless action was taken to curb it, the professor said.

"Hospitals have an incentive to take the easy cases, with a low risk of complications that will maintain their profit margins. GP fundholders may delay referring an elderly patient for whom they have to pay until they are admitted as an emergency for which treatment is free."

Age Concern, the charity which highlighted two cases of discrimination against old people yesterday, reported that they had received a subse-

quent flood of calls from other elderly people also complaining that they had been denied care. The calls were provoked by reports that a hospital in East Sussex had refused physiotherapy treatment to a 73-year-old former band leader with arthritis and that a London hospital had refused treatment to a heart patient aged 78.

The band leader, Johnnie Gray, who provoked the current dispute, has arthritis and had been given physiotherapy at Newhaven Downs Hospital in East Sussex for the past six years. He described the decision to withdraw his treatment, which was given in a letter to his GP, as disgraceful and cruel.

"I suppose it is because they can't cure chronic arthritis, and at 73 they look at you as if you are already dead," he said.

"I have paid my taxes and I am entitled to my treatment. My arthritis has stopped me

from playing the saxophone so I don't have enough money to go private. It is a disgrace. It seems once you are over 65 you are just thrown on the rubbish heap."

Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern, wrote to the Health Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, yesterday urging her to investigate the allegations of discrimination. "There must be no blanket restriction on care on the grounds of age," she said. "Everyone is entitled to an individual medical assessment that determines their treatment."

Brighton NHS trust admitted yesterday that an age bar of 65 was in operation for its "open access" physiotherapy clinics to which GPs send their patients direct. Patients who are over that age may be treated, but only if a consultant agrees that they are likely to benefit as a result.

John Spiers, chairman of the Brighton trust, said in a statement: "You can walk in up to 65 with a GP letter for any condition. Over 65, if we can cure you, the GP will send you. There is a clinical judgment on when chronic conditions degenerate."



Johnnie Gray, 73, was refused treatment for arthritis

Jails to get carrot and stick regime

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS are to be rewarded for good behaviour with extra family visits, duvets instead of blankets and facilities to cook their own meals.

A new system of prison incentives and sanctions was announced yesterday as part of an attempt to improve discipline, to encourage work and to make life decent but austere. It is to be introduced after growing concern among ministers and prison staff at indiscipline in jails reflected by a 20 per cent increase in assaults on staff last year.

Prisoners who behave and co-operate with staff will win a range of privileges including more than one visit a week and an opportunity for longer visits from wives and children. Other privileges will include evening classes related to hobbies rather than to education. Inmates who are disruptive, fail to co-operate with prison officers or refuse to work face cuts in time spent out of cells and restriction on television viewing and access to sports equipment. They may not be allowed radios.

Derek Lewis, the director-general of the prison service, which runs 133 jails in Eng-

land and Wales, said: "We grant privileges to prisoners on a blanket basis. A fundamental part of this strategy is to change this philosophy to make sure privileges are earned, and equally we take privileges away from those who subsequently fail to behave."

A report published yesterday outlining the services strategy for the next three years reflects the drive by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, for tougher prison regimes. "Convicted prisoners go to prison as a punishment. Condition should be decent but austere: there is no place in our prison system for lavish facilities," the report says.

The prison population has become younger, more violent and more volatile, the report says. Assaults on prison staff rose by 20 per cent to almost 3,000 in 1993-94.

The new system was unveiled as the Prison Officers' Association gave a warning of the consequences of overcrowding. John Bartell, chairman of the association, told a delegate conference in London there was more indiscipline, more drugs, and no-go areas.

Stores make most of plentiful fruit

By JAMES MOORE

A WIDER variety of fruit is gradually becoming more available and with it slightly lower prices. Pineapples, mainly from the Ivory Coast, are worth buying this week and should cost between 75p and £1.50, depending on size.

Other fruit to look out for are: Spania strawberries, 40p-70p a pound punnet; Jaffa shamouti oranges, 10p-25p each depending on size; Florida ruby red grapefruit, 30p-48p; and Cape Williams bon cretien pears, 39p-55p a pound.

The best buys in the shops this weekend are:

Asda: fresh pork belly, 89p a pound; whole trout (loose), 90c minimum, 99p; cherry tomatoes, 89p a pound; Eccles cake from the bakery, 79p for six.

Budgens: round lettuce, 19p each; Maryland chocolate chip cookies, traditional or hazelnut, 59p; Uncle Ben's long grain rice, £1.99 a kilo; loose red plums, 69p a pound.

Co-op: Lazenby Cumberland sausage, one pound pack, 99p; Co-op branflakes, 79p for 500g; Olivio reduced fat spread, 250g, 49p; Linda McCartney beefless burgers, 360g, £1.39.

Gateway: loose mushrooms, 76p a pound; Somerfield wholemeal chicken steaks, £1.19 per 100g pack; Heinz

baked beans, 4x420g pack, 86p; Somerfield cheese and tomato pizza, 360g, 99p.

Iceland: chicken, 2.2 kg, £2.99; whiting fillets, 680g, £1.99; vanilla ice cream, £1.19 for two litres; chips, four pounds for 89p.

Kwik Save: Chivers marmalade, 340g, 49p; Cadbury's fingers, 12 mini packs, 99p; Freshbake cherry pie, 425g, 67p; Treats strawberry splits ice lollies, ten pack, £1.35.

Marks and Spencer: prawn en croute, £1.49; duck a l'orange, £4.75; extra large bag of oranges, £1.99; Black Forest gateau, £2.49.

Safeway: pork loin steaks, 69p a pound; rich and creamy yoghurt, 4x150g, 99p; 12 plain baps, 59p; Granny Smith's apples, 29p a pound.

Sainsbury's: West Country farmhouse cheddar, 1.99 a pound; apple juice, 69p a litre; ham shoulder, 4oz, 49p; four Scotch rolls, 35p.

Tesco: Canadian lobster, £6.95 a pound; red peppers, 79p each; Nescafe Gold Blend coffee, 300g, £4.97; braising steak, £1.68 a pound.

Waitrose: tiger prawn korma with rice, 300g, £1.69; New Zealand hoki filets, £1.49 a pound; acacia honey, £1.19 a pound; bumper pack of sweets, 360g, £1.29.



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Golfer feared plot to sink him at 13th hole

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A GOLFER suing two opponents who accused him of cheating during a tournament told a jury yesterday that he believed they were trying to hound him out of their club.

John Buckingham, 57, who worked for British Coal before setting up his own insurance business, said the cheating allegations had affected his whole life. Now retired, he was accused by Reginald Dove and Graham Rusk of placing his ball in more favourable lies and dropping a ball down his trouser-leg.

He said yesterday of the incident at his former club, Sherwood Forest Golf Club, near Worksop, Nottinghamshire: "Accusations like this upset the whole balance of your lifestyle."

Mr Buckingham, a ten-handicap golfer, told the jury

hearing at Nottingham County Court that he started proceedings against Mr Dove and Mr Rusk in June 1991 after Sherwood's committee cleared him of cheating during the Sherwood Open in August 1990. "I've never had an apology from either of the two defendants. All I wanted was an apology and to cover my expenses incurred in defending myself," he said.

Richard Hartley QC, for Mr Dove and Mr Rusk, asked Mr Buckingham if he believed the pair had created a conspiracy. He replied: "Whether there was a conspiracy or not I don't know, but the allegations seemed to link together certain people at the club."

The jury was told Mr Dove had been a regular partner of Mr Buckingham. They played together once a fortnight for

two years before the cheating allegations came to light.

Mr Buckingham said that although the club's officials had found the allegations untrue, he believed the idea behind the claims had been to oust him from the £426-a-year club. After the accusations were made he was ostracised.

Recalling the 13th hole in the tournament round, Mr Buckingham told the jury: "Mr Dove teed off first, and his shot went into the trees. But my shot was not very good either and ended up in a similar position."

"We both walked into the area, and both balls were very visible. Then we just chipped out onto the fairway."

Mr Mitro read out Mr Dove's allegations contained in the letter he sent to the club's secretary: "Mr Buckingham's shot was high and went into the trees. I went with him to look for his ball. I searched close to my trolley but then looked further away."

"I was somewhat surprised to hear Mr Buckingham say he had found the ball quite close to my trolley. It was very obvious Mr Buckingham had dropped another ball when my back was turned." He also claimed his opponent dropped a ball when in trouble on the 17th.

Mr Rusk and Mr Dove claim a defence of privilege and justification. The hearing continues today.



Buckingham: "Accusations like this upset the whole balance of your lifestyle"

Blandford admits to fraud as taxi ban is lifted

By ROBI DUTTA

THE Marquess of Blandford was given permission yesterday to travel by taxi if accompanied by his lawyers after admitting to six offences including stealing a cheque book and forging cheques valued at £800.

Blandford, 35, pleaded guilty at Horseferry Road magistrates' court, central London, to stealing a cheque book, four counts of forging cheques and one charge of evasion of liability to make a payment to his cleaner. He denied a charge of making off without paying taxi fares totalling £212.80.

The heir to the Blenheim estate was remanded until May 12 on £5,000 conditional bail which was renewed by a woman.

David Archer, for the prosecution, told the court Blandford stole a cheque book belonging to Emma Parker Bowles, daughter of the Countess of Halifax, which had been left at his house in Chelsea, and used ten cheques from it. He said Blandford had written a cheque to his cleaner, which bounced as it was in the wrong name. She went to the police, who interviewed Miss Parker Bowles.

Blandford told police Miss Parker Bowles, a distant cousin, had moved several boxes into his house because she had nowhere to live. He said she owed him £3,000.

Why he chose The Times



Dr Anthony Jagger, a retired scientist from Nottingham, used to read *The Daily Telegraph* but switched initially to *The Times* because of the price. "I looked at *The Times* and thought about the price cut and decided it seemed foolish not to give it a try," said Dr Jagger, who enjoys the crosswords. "I am glad I did because there is plenty of news coverage, not just in Britain but abroad, too."



Dove: sent letter to club secretary

Rusk: claims defence of justification

Police still count the cost of Hillsborough

By KATE ALDERSON

FIVE years after the Hillsborough disaster, police are still retiring at a rate of three a month because of the trauma they experienced at the football stadium in Sheffield.

Police representatives will be among those attending services in remembrance of the 96 fans who lost their lives during the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

Chief Constable Richard Wells of the South Yorkshire Constabulary said at a Samaritans' meeting in Sheffield that police officers were still abandoning their career for medical reasons triggered by the disaster. Many of the 1,000 officers who attended the event have weekly nightmares, cold sweats and have told police counsellors they feel they are going mad.

A spokeswoman for South

Yorkshire Police said: "While it is a long time after the event, officers are retiring now after trying to soldier on for so long. After many years they have realised that their ability to perform their duties has been impaired, often by post-traumatic stress that has triggered another illness."

The families of the Liverpool fans crushed to death, members of the present Liverpool football team and club officials will attend a memorial service at Liverpool's Anglican cathedral this afternoon. At 3.00pm, the time when the whistle was blown to stop the match five years ago, there will be a minute's silence.

In Sheffield a public remembrance service will be held at Wadley Lane, 200 yards from the Hillsborough stadium, where a memorial stone is laid.

THE TIMES

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BRITAIN'S BEST DEALS

Bar releases exam marks to mollify failed law students

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Bar's law school is to take the unprecedented step of releasing the marks of 1,500 students who failed to win places on next year's vocational course amid mounting controversy about its new selection procedure.

The move comes after widespread criticism and dismay from university law professors at the recent results of the Bar law school examinations. More than 60 graduates who had already been awarded scholarships of up to £10,000 from the Inns of Court have been refused places on the Bar law school's one-year course, which is the essential stepping stone into the profession. Some of the failures had first-class degrees.

Sir Nicholas Phillips, a High Court judge and the chairman of the Council of Legal Education, which runs the Bar law school, said yesterday: "It seems that students ought to be entitled to know why they have failed."

He said the new system, in which the school selects some 800 students from 2,400 applicants, was bound to lead to a "lot of disappointment". But he added: "I think we have devised the best system we could. But if you are selecting those kinds of numbers, there must be a risk that the system is not going to be 100 per cent successful."

Sir Nicholas agreed that some who had failed the selection procedure appeared to have high academic qualifications. The school was now analysing the results to see if there was an explanation for this. But he pointed out that A levels had been found to be a far more accurate predictor of

■ Concern is mounting about the Bar law school's selection procedure, victims of which include all seven CPS scholarship winners

success on the Bar course than degree results. Most students applying for the Bar law school have not yet finished their degree courses anyway.

This autumn the Bar has decided to restrict the number of places to be awarded to the record 2,400 applicants, ending the old system of selection on the basis of degree results and interviews. For the first time the examinations took no account of an applicant's degree result and did not include any interviews. Instead papers included a new written "critical reasoning" test and A-level results were taken into account.

The new selection system has been devised as an emergency measure to cope with the selection crisis at the Bar prompted by the huge numbers now applying. But since the results were published recently, protests have come from university law schools, as well as from the Crown Prosecution Service. The CPS's seven scholarship candidates, who had already been put through a rigorous selection process, were all refused places.

Hundreds of students are expected to appeal and there are rumours that some are considering judicial review proceedings.

Yesterday John Taylor, secretary of the Council of Legal Education, said that candidates had a right to know their results, which are held on computer, under the Data Protection Act 1974. "Because of the widespread demand for

the actual marks, and given a lot of them have been unsuccessful, it seems only right to release them," he said. "They will then be able to see how they scored against the various criteria and the thresholds they had to achieve."

But Mr Taylor predicted that among those who had narrowly failed to be selected, the release of the marks would generate "something of an industry". However, an appeals committee had been set up and all students had a right to appeal, he said.

Commenting on the students awarded scholarships from the Inns of Court, Mr Taylor said that they were using different selection criteria. "What is surprising is the high degree of correlation between the Inns' awards and those who got on to the course: three-quarters of those with scholarships were successful," he said.

Captain Patrick Sheehan, sub-treasurer of the Inner Temple, said it would be assisting any students who wished to appeal. He said there was "naturally a certain amount of disappointment that students, many of a very high calibre, were being awarded scholarships and then not gaining a place at the Inns of Court school of law".

Professor John Miller, of Queen Mary College, London, said the law schools were concerned that the new selection system had come up with what appeared to be some "very bizarre results" and "on quite a large scale".

BBC shows it has a nose for Dickensian London

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

CITY swindles, wife beating, ambush and violent murder all feature in the biggest BBC drama of the year, currently filming in Norfolk. But parents and politicians need not worry: the £4 million serial is an adaptation of Charles Dickens's *Middlemarch*.

Dickens would have been a television dramatist had he been alive today, according to novelist David Lodge, who has adapted *Chuzzlewit* for the BBC. He said: "Dickens liked the expansiveness of the serial form. He would have loved the wide audience."

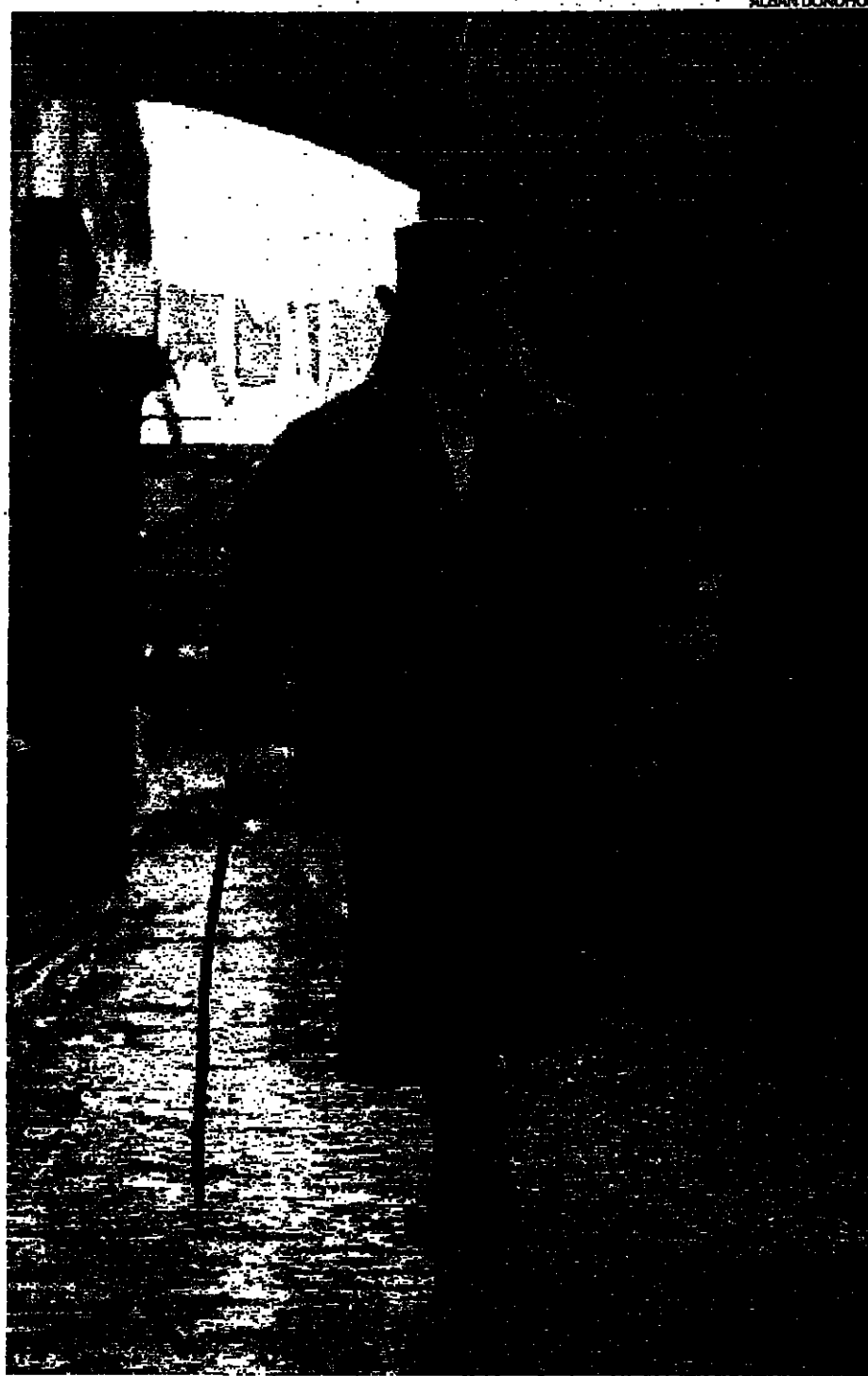
Mr Lodge watched filming yesterday as Mercy Pecksniff — played by Julia Sawalha, better known as Jennifer Saunders's daughter in *Absolutely Fabulous* — walked in and out of Mrs Todger's boarding house, better known as the local government offices in King's Lynn.

The *Chuzzlewit* producers face a difficult task: they must repeat the success of *Middlemarch* and provide the BBC with another flagship classic drama. The six-part adaptation of George Eliot's novel attracted eight million viewers and unprecedented critical acclaim. But *Chuzzlewit*'s director, Peter James, refuses to compare the two. "The Dickens scenes, particularly those set in London, are very down-market and greasy. We are not playing to the heritage-lovers," he said.

Chris Parr, *Chuzzlewit*'s producer, believes the success of *Middlemarch* has changed the BBC's drama policy. He said: "It may be difficult to recall in these post-*Middlemarch* days, but there was a time when you did not get much encouragement within the BBC for period drama. They felt it was not what the BBC should be doing."

This year, however, the corporation is launching a host of literary adaptations including *Edith Wharton's The Buccaneers* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Dickens described *Chuzzlewit* as "in a hundred points immeasurably the best of my stories". The adaptation stars Sir John Mills, Paul Scofield, Ben Wadell — son of political interviewer Brian



Paul Scofield, as Old Anthony Chuzzlewit, filming Dickens's novel yesterday

— and Pete Postlethwaite, who won a recent Oscar nomination for his role in *In the Name of the Father*.

At £800,000 an hour, with each day's filming producing six to seven minutes of action, it is also the BBC's most expensive Dickens costume drama so far, although the costumes themselves are not overpriced. Jeremy Turner, the designer, said: "I rang the people who had done *Middlemarch* and *Scarlet and Black* to see how big their budgets were. Mine is modest in comparison, but then my characters do not live in stately homes. The clothes that Paul Scofield wears as both Old Martin and Old Anthony Chuzzlewit are very old and tatty. A costume drama should not be a fashion parade."

Arts, pages 31-33

Twins see mother stabbed

A mother was stabbed 20 times yesterday and her throat slashed during an attack in front of her twin sons, Susan Wilson, 33, was gravely ill in Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool, after the assault at her home in Anfield.

A man who had also suffered stab wounds fled the house and was knocked down by a car. He was taken to the same hospital, where police waited to interview him.

The 11-year-old twins, Daniel and Lee, were being treated for shock. Their mother works as a bar manager at the city's St George's Hotel.

Repairs bid

A painting of Nottingham Goose Fair by a local turn-of-the-century artist, Arthur Spooner, is expected to fetch £150,000 when it is auctioned by the county's International Co-operative College to help to pay for urgent repairs.

Foxes saved

Three fox cubs, aged two weeks, are being hand-reared at an RSPCA centre near Taunton, Somerset, after their mother was accidentally crushed to death on a farm. Eventually they will be returned to the wild.

Raider savaged

A burglar is believed to be seriously hurt after being attacked by a doberman at a house in Blyth, Northumberland. The returning owners found a trail of blood from room to room.

Funeral slip-up

The crematorium funeral of a woman at Slough, Buckinghamshire, had to be cut from 45 minutes to ten when a clergyman forgot to turn up and a substitute was hastily called in.

Six held

Six Asian men suspected of being illegal immigrants were arrested after hailing a taxi at an M2 service station in Kent and asking to be taken to London.

Cliff death

The body of a 24-year-old Cornish student has been found at the foot of cliffs on the Solly Island of St Mary's.

Moving home

Five Cotswold cottages bought by a Tokyo developer have been dismantled stone by stone for reassembly in Japan.

Debt-ridden 'name' left £600,000

A FORMER sea lord who killed himself over the financial pressures of being a Lloyd's name left £600,000 in his will, it was disclosed yesterday.

Admiral Sir Richard Fitch, 64, died after attaching a hosepipe to the exhaust of his Volvo car, the day after Lloyd's investors rejected a £900 million settlement leaving names such as Sir Richard to meet the bill.

Some backers are liable for millions of pounds, and Sir Richard feared he would be financially ruined.

Sir Richard's widow Kathleen told a West Sussex inquest last month that her husband had been suffering from depression for the past three years as a result of the Lloyd's saga.

He feared losing the family home in Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex, to help clear the debt to Lloyd's.

A spokesman for the executors of the will, London-based lawyers Wright Son and Pepper, declined to say if the amount left by Sir Richard would cover the amount owed to the insurance firm.

Pollution could foil mines sale

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE privatisation of the coal industry is likely to fail unless the issue of who pays for water pollution from abandoned mine workings is resolved, the National Rivers Authority said yesterday.

Many of the pits offered for sale are linked with hundreds of miles of old workings from which millions of gallons of toxic chemicals could seep into rivers.

Some rivers, including the Wear, are protected from minewater pollution by a handful of pumps operated by British Coal in the Durham coalfield. But its responsibility will end with the sale of the industry.

Lord Crickhowell, chairman of the authority, said yesterday that despite assurances by the Government, the Coal Privatisation Bill failed to state who would inherit the responsibility for environmental protection. He said the uncertainty had not been lost on companies planning to bid for pits.

Malcolm Edwards, former commercial director of British

Coal, has stated that he would not take over certain mines until the issue of who held liability had been settled. Some experts say that the cost involved could be higher than the value of the industry, estimated at £500 million.

Lord Crickhowell said that the authority would resist any plan to make the private coal companies liable: "Some of these inherited liabilities could be enormous. Will a new operator have the resources to pick them up and would it be able to get insurance? On the whole people shut down mines because they are in financial difficulties."

The authority is to urge the Government to transfer the liabilities to the coal authority, which will become the regulator after privatisation.

Studies by the NRA show that 57 rivers, tributaries and canals are affected by pollution from mines. □ *Abandoned Mines and the Water Environment* (HMSO, £7.95); *Contaminated Land and the Water Environment* (HMSO, £7.95).

Starlings rule garden roost

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

STARLINGS have displaced house sparrows as the most often seen garden birds, and magpies and carrion crows have edged their way into the top ten. However, the song thrush's call, which captivated the poet Robert Browning, is fading from the dawn chorus.

Starlings and house sparrows are, however, being seen in far fewer numbers, according to the 1994 results of the annual garden survey by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Almost 20,000

volunteers in 8,500 gardens counted the numbers and species they saw during one hour on the weekend of January 29-30.

Mark Avery of the society, which started the survey 15 years ago, said: "The message is that today's most common birds can become tomorrow's endangered ones."

Starlings and house sparrows nest in holes in buildings and trees and are well suited to a garden habitat. They also depend on farmland and are

among the many birds that have suffered from the loss of post-harvest stubble fields.

The omnivorous magpie, treated by many landowners as vermin because it steals other birds' eggs and even kills their young, has been increasing because there are fewer gamekeepers to shoot it.

Other garden birds seen more frequently are chaffinches, robins, great tits, coal tits and carrion crows. Blackbirds, blue tits and greenfinches are all in decline.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Women triumph

The Georgian women's team, composed of Gaprindashvili, Chiburdanidze and Alexandria, has inflicted a severe defeat on the Singapore national men's side. Nona Gaprindashvili, the former women's world champion, enjoyed a welcome return to form.

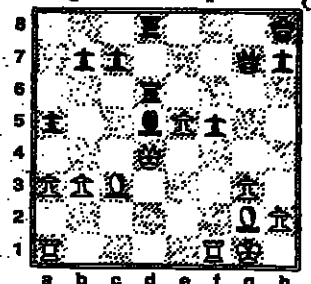
White: Gaprindashvili
Black: Lim
Singapore 1994

Dutch Defence

1 d4 Nf6
2 Nf3 Nf6
3 g3 e6
4 Bg2 Be7
5 d4 d4
6 Qd2 Nf6
7 Nbd2 c5
8 Qc2 Be7
9 e3 e5
10 e3 e5
11 Bf1 Qe8
12 Ne1 Qf5
13 Nc3 g5
14 f3 Nc2
15 Bc2 Rf6
16 Qd5 exd5
17 f4 Be6
18 Ng5 Qg5
19 Nf4 Bf7

20 Nxd5 Rf6
21 e4 Qf7
22 e5 Nxd4
23 Qd4 Be6
24 Qxd4 Rxd4
25 Nxd7+ Kf8
26 Nd5 Bxd5
27 Bc3 Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Final Scores
The Georgia-Singapore match was played on the Scheveningen system, with two teams of three players competing. Each player played against every member of the opposing team three times.

Georgia
Chiburdanidze 2; Gaprindashvili 6; Alexandria 5.5
Singapore
Li Yang Hsu (Singapore) 5.5; Terry Toh 3; Hoon Cheng Lim 0.

Winning Move, page 44

Black writer wins £5,000 book award

By A STAFF REPORTER

A COMPUTER programmer who could not find any children's books with black heroes decided to write one herself. The result was *Hacker*, which yesterday won the Malorie Blackman £5,000 award.

The book is an adventure story about a youngster who cracks a bank's computer to prove her father is innocent of theft.

Ms Blackman, 32, of Ladywell, south London, felt books tended to give children the idea that if they were black they had problems and she wanted to overcome this.

Her book was chosen for the W.H. Smith Mind Boggling Books Award for paperbacks by a panel of children. The ten judges were all aged between nine and 12. The award was presented by Andi Peters, the children's television presenter.

Ms Blackman received 82 rejection slips in two years before her first book, *Not So Stupid*, was published.

It later became a selected title for the 1991 Feminist Book Fortnight and Ms Blackman also participated in the first BBC TV black wom-

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Bosnian Serbs abduct Canadian peacekeepers

■ With UN personnel held hostage, curbs on the foreign press and new threats to Sarajevo, the Bosnian Serbs are taking a hard line in the wake of Nato air strikes

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

DESPITE frantic diplomatic efforts, the situation in Bosnia took a turn for the worse yesterday as Bosnian Serb forces brought a tank out of hiding in the heavy weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo and rounded up United Nations soldiers guarding artillery.

In Gorazde, UN sources said that three children were killed by a suspected tank shell in the northeast of the city. They also reported "heavy tank fire and Bosnian Serb army movement" in the east of the Muslim-held enclave.

Michael Williams, a UN spokesman, called the abduction at gunpoint of 15 Canadian peacekeepers "intolerable". He refused to say they were "hostages", but said they were being kept against their will.

A French UN soldier was also badly wounded by sniper fire in Sarajevo and shells landed around a UN position in the northeastern town of Tuzla, provoking Nato jets to "buzz" the area for three hours. The detention of the

Canadians and the mining of other sites at which the UN is guarding heavy weaponry marks a grave deterioration in the situation. It means that the Serbs could resume the shelling of Sarajevo within hours. This is a move that could only be prevented by further Nato air strikes.

The weaponry around the Bosnian capital was withdrawn or placed under control after the Nato ultimatum last February. Up to 200 UN personnel in Bosnian Serb territories have now been placed under effective house arrest or prevented from moving. Jovan Zarnetica, the Bosnian Serb spokesman, said he had no comment on these developments.

The incidents came as Vitali Churkin, the Russian special envoy to former Yugoslavia, met President Milosevic of Serbia in Belgrade for a second day. Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the European Union and UN peace negotiators, were also expected in Belgrade last night. They had spent the



A Bosnian government soldier reading a book yesterday behind his position along Sarajevo's "sniper alley"

night in Pale where they met Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader.

Mr Churkin reiterated yesterday that he was "convinced by the Bosnian Serb representatives that they will not take

any military action against Gorazde, under the condition that the Muslims do not force them to do so". He is believed to be attempting to negotiate a Gorazde ceasefire which would involve a Serb withdrawal and Russian peacekeeping troops coming in to provide a buffer zone.

Mr Zarnetica said that there had been "an agreement in principle" to a ceasefire in Gorazde, but noted that nothing had been signed. Asked whether the Serbs were prepared to withdraw, he said: "Certainly not, no way." Mr Zarnetica claimed that the Muslims only wanted ceasefires "in places where they are

beaten so they can carry on fighting where they think they have a chance and think they can provoke Nato air strikes".

UN sources said that the three children killed in Gorazde had been beside a well. Seven others were also injured. Tanjug, the Belgrade news agency, claimed that the Muslim-led Bosnian army had launched an offensive against Serb positions yesterday morning. "The situation is hectic on the bridges around Gorazde," it said, "with the Muslims moving strong forces against the Bosnian Serb positions."

Claims of a Muslim offensive were impossible to verify as the UN military observers operating on the Serb side of the front line have been detained. Foreign journalists have also been refused permission to go to the area and yesterday American journalists were banned from Bosnian Serb territories. On Tuesday the Yugoslav government withdrew accreditation from CNN, the American cable news station, and Agence France-Presse, the French news agency.

Staff of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees are also coming under pressure in both Serbia and the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic. Molotov cocktails exploded outside the UNHCR headquarters in Belgrade on Wednesday night and staff in

Pale and the northern Bosnian Serb stronghold of Banja Luka have had their movements severely restricted.

Radio Banja Luka has singled out the UNHCR, accusing it of "acting outside its mandate". UNHCR staff in Pale have been ordered to stay inside their homes and have been told they will receive an armed guard. Unconfirmed

Library appeal

Paris: The United Nations has launched an appeal to rebuild Sarajevo's historic National and University Library, gutted by shelling in August 1992. Federico Mayor, director-general of the UN Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation, said that France had become the first country to respond to the appeal, launched on Tuesday night. It has pledged \$120,000. (Reuters)

reports say that civilians can no longer buy petrol in Banja Luka, the assumption being that stocks are being reserved for the military.

Bosnian Serb sources say that there is fighting on many fronts and that the Bosnian army is on the offensive in Olivo, Doboj and Zvornik.

Aggressive campaign, page 1

Tobacco moguls say cigarettes are not addictive

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

CHIEF executives of seven American tobacco companies launched a counter-attack on the anti-smoking lobby yesterday rejecting the allegation that they "spike" cigarettes with extra nicotine.

They denied that nicotine is addictive, contradicting an earlier report by the Surgeon-General, and raised the spectre of another disastrous Prohibition if the government tried to regulate or outlaw cigarettes.

The seven, testifying on Capitol Hill, were given a brisk dressing down by Henry

Waxman, Democratic chairman of the House committee on health, who demanded that they be held accountable for products that were the cause of America's most serious health problem, leading to one thousand deaths a day.

The clash between the tobacco industry and its foes came as no-smoking bans proliferate across the country, including bars, parks and outdoor sports arenas.

The latest argument has focused on allegations that the tobacco companies add nicotine to low-tar cigarettes to

American tobacco companies, under pressure from Congress, released a top-secret list of the 599 chemicals they add to cigarettes, excluding nicotine. The list included wine, chocolate and rum, but also ammonia and an insecticide. The industry said the chemicals are only used in safe quantities.

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The latest argument has focused on allegations that the tobacco companies add nicotine to low-tar cigarettes to

book smokers. If Congress can prove the industry knew nicotine was addictive and worked to manipulate it, the Food and Drug Administration could label cigarettes a drug and bring them under its control. This is the goal of Mr Waxman, who said that the tobacco companies were lying in saying there was no manipulation of nicotine. He cited a 1981 report by a tobacco company executive saying research was directed at increasing nicotine levels. William Campbell, president of Philip Morris, makers of Marlboro cigarettes, said his company had spent more than \$300 million (\$200 million) to "de-nicotise" its products. Philip Morris has filed a libel suit seeking \$10 billion in from ABC News for alleging that the company's cigarettes are "spiked". Mr Campbell said the fact that 40 million Americans had stopped smoking was proof that nicotine was non-addictive. He claimed that the abrupt stoppage of nicotine consumption was not followed by withdrawal symptoms. The Surgeon-General's contention that smoking was in the same class of addiction as heroin and cocaine was refuted by Jim Johnston, chairman of R.J.R. Reynolds, makers of Winston cigarettes. He asked: "Would you rather board a plane with a pilot who had just smoked a cigarette or one who had just snorted cocaine, shot heroin in his arm or popped some pills?" Mr Johnston admitted that cigarette smoking could be habit-forming, in the same realm as watching television or drinking coffee.

Cobain's widow on drug charges

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

COURTNEY Love, the rock singer and widow of Kurt Cobain, leader of the grunge rock band Nirvana, was arrested in Los Angeles on drug charges as her heroin-addicted husband committed suicide in Seattle last week, police have confirmed.

Staff at the luxury Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills called police last Thursday believing a guest had overdosed on heroin. Love, 28, who was in Los Angeles for the launch of the new album by her group Hole, called *Live Through This*, was charged for possession of drugs and drugs paraphernalia and released on \$10,000 (£6,500) bail. Cobain's body was found less than 24 hours later. He had killed himself with a shotgun blast to his head and was judged to have been dead for about a day.

Love had spent much of the week searching for her husband after he had unexpectedly left a Los Angeles drug rehabilitation centre where he had been recovering after falling into a

coma last month in Rome while on tour. Both singers had admitted using drugs in the past but since claimed to be drug-free, apparently worried that Frances Bean, their daughter, who is now 19



Love said she had given up drugs

months old, would be taken into custody. "I accepted the fact I was a drug addict," Love told the *Los Angeles Times* last week. "I'm aware I am not above it. I realise drugs can floor me." Her court hearing has been set for May 5.

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keepers

Election date deadlock reduces international mediation effort to one-act farce

South Africa confounds veteran peace emissaries

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE much-heralded team of international mediators flew out of South Africa last night shaking their heads at the absurdity of it all.

Henry Kissinger, Lord Carrington and seven other, mostly legal, luminaries were invited to try to close the constitutional gap between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party. But when they arrived two days ago they discovered that the terms of reference for the mediation had not been agreed.

Two further days of anguished discussion between the parties, which now also included the South African government, failed to resolve the disagreement over whether or not the date of the election — in two weeks' time — should also be the subject of

their respective embassies in Pretoria that the terms of reference had been nailed down before they arrived. "If I thought it was otherwise," Lord Carrington said, "frankly I would have found it difficult to leave London."

Lord Carrington, whom history will remember as the architect of the settlement that ended Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence, and brought about the legitimate birth of Zimbabwe, admitted: "I don't think the mediation would have been very easy, but the prize at the end of it was enormous."

Dr Kissinger, ending his mission, said: "I wish the parties all the best. We hope that South Africa can achieve its aspirations in peace and that the dream for which so many have struggled will be crowned by a smooth transition to full independence."

Judge Leon Higginbotham, a distinguished US lawyer who was also a member of the team, quoted Benjamin Franklin urging ratification by the states after the completion of the US Constitution, as saying: "We must all hang together or we shall hang separately."

After the mediators had folded their tents and backed out of the television lights, the platform was occupied by representatives of the two quarrelling parties, who each accused the other of being responsible for the fiasco. Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC Secretary-General, declared: "We have to say that the breakdown around the terms of reference was really occasioned by Inkatha's insistence that the postponement of the elections had to be addressed by the mediators."

Dr Ben Ngubane, KwaZulu Minister of Health and Inkatha's principal negotiator, accused both the ANC and the government of negotiating in bad faith.

After last Friday's summit meeting in the Kruger Park, a task force to address the constitutional crisis surrounding the aspirations of the Zulu king has been established, and a set of joint proposals is in the process of being refined. If this matter can be settled and another summit meeting convened early next week, some of the steam could be taken out of the argument.

Zulu fight, page 16



A child waiting for water yesterday at a refugee camp in Verulam, near Durban. The camp is populated by families fleeing violence in the Ndwedwe region.

Soldiers kill Lesotho minister

BY MICHAEL HAMLYN

THE Deputy Prime Minister of the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho was shot dead by marauding soldiers yesterday while resisting attempts to kidnap him from his home.

Selometsi Baholo, who was also the Finance Minister, was killed as army dissidents seized four other Cabinet ministers. According to one report, they were taken away in an open lorry to a maximum-security section of the central prison in the capital, Maseru. There were also unconfirmed reports that a second minister had been killed.

Ntse Mokhele, the Prime Minister, was quoted by the South African Broadcasting Corporation as saying that a coup was in progress and the Speaker of parliament suspended the parliamentary sitting.

Some diplomats in Maseru said that there was no real indication that a coup was under way. "It appears to be a military by dissident soldiers," said one envoy.

General Mosekeng, the head of the Lesotho army, was reportedly at Maseru negotiating with disaffected troops. The ministers who are believed to have been abducted are Monyane Moleleki, the Natural Resources Minister, Kelebone Maope, the Justice Minister, Pakalitha Moisi, the Education Minister, and Shakhane Mokhele, the Trade Minister, who is the younger brother of the Prime Minister.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rao calls for end to Indian caste bias
Bombay: P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Prime Minister, whose party is wowing continued support of India's Harijans or "untouchables" before several state elections, appealed for an end to centuries of caste prejudice.

"Only when caste discrimination stops and political parties stop getting mileage out of these divisions can we say that this dream has come true," said Mr Rao after unveiling a statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar, the late revered leader of the untouchables who drafted India's constitution. (Reuters)

Patriots project
Taipei: Taiwan will deploy 200 US Patriot missiles as part of upgrading its air defenses, the United Daily News said. Three batteries will be installed in northern Taiwan, but it did not say when. (Reuters)

Job revenge
Raleigh: Ladislav Antal, who did not get on with his co-workers at a fibre-optic plant and threatened revenge after resigning last year, killed two workers and wounded two before committing suicide near Raleigh, North Carolina. (AP)

Priest guilty
Buffalo: Stanley Ropelski, a Roman Catholic priest, has admitted buying cocaine but denied paying for the drugs with church money in Buffalo, New York. Ropelski, 62, will be sentenced in July. (AP)

Load lightens
Peking: Chinese surgeons removed a 16lb tumour from the chest of a nine-year-old boy. He was a third lighter after the seven-hour operation, during which he underwent emergency resuscitation. (Reuters)

Camel tests
Abu Dhabi: A laboratory to test camels for drugs to ensure clean competition in races has been set up in the United Arab Emirates. (AFP)

Talks go adrift in an isolated world of fantasy

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN DURBAN

Lord Carrington, Dr Henry Kissinger and the rest of the international mediation team had little chance of resolving the conflict between the ANC and the forces of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Inkatha's leader, and King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulus.

If "resolving" meant getting the Inkatha Freedom Party to contest the elections, then there never was a chance. In part this is because Inkatha leaders often seem to live in a fantasy world of their own. "Do you know," one such figure said, "the ANC seem to believe that the elections will go ahead as planned?" Such leaders also dismiss polls showing Inkatha lagging behind the ANC in Natal and insist they have at least 60 per cent support there. Such assumptions provide no basis for realistic decision-making.

But nobody who has studied the Inkatha electorate could have honestly advised Chief Buthelezi to opt for participation at the last moment either. That electorate, heavily skewed as it is towards older, more rural and less educated Africans, is confused. It is a conservative, often deeply Christian body of people, clinging to Zulu traditions. Many are among the most vulnerable elements in society — the poorest of the poor, illiterate older women and so on — and surveys show they are the most timorous, intimidated voters. To mobilise this electorate, Chief Buthelezi would require at least three, perhaps six months.

If you talk to these people, they will tell you that they are scared of "being ruled by Xhosas, Indians or Communists", all of which they see prominently arrayed in the ANC forces confronting them. In addition, they are fiercely loyal to their king, whose right to speak for "the Zulu nation" they accept without question. The existence of this hard core of Zulu traditionalism was always the strongest argument for a large measure of federal devolution in Natal. This would have created an

arena in which such elements could have felt secure of being ruled by their own kind. Polls show Natal is divided 50:50 between the ANC and non-ANC forces. Inkatha, had it been fully mobilised for electoral purposes, would either have been the dominant partner in a local anti-ANC coalition or would have ruled Natal in coalition with the ANC — the only outcome likely to bring lasting peace.

It is difficult to see how Lord Carrington and Dr Kissinger could have brought about such an outcome. To date, the ANC has sought to "solve" the problem by attempting to drive a wedge between Chief Buthelezi and King Goodwill. This strategy has failed for several reasons, not the least being that it was widely broadcast in advance that there was a great gulf between the two men and that the king only kept loyal to Chief Buthelezi because the latter held his purse-strings.

This strategy was mistaken. Chief Buthelezi and the king are both part of the Zulu royal family and are not easily to be divided by, as it were, Xhosas bearing gifts. The assumption that the king was so worried about his salary that he could be bought with a higher offer from the ANC was merely insulting.

King Goodwill's concerns are those of the Zulu nation, which lives predominantly in Natal. Any settlement must guarantee the self-determination, security and sovereignty of that nation. But the use of terms like "federalism" and "sovereignty" are abhorrent to the ANC, which sees them as harking back to the apartheid era: in that sense the talks were doomed.

The problem that Lord Carrington and Dr Kissinger faced was that mediators are expected to split the difference between two contending sides. But the only long-term solution in this case is convincing the ANC that its own interests lie in making space for Zulu traditionalists to feel at home in the new South Africa.

Belgians shelled by rebels in Kigali

FROM REUTERS IN KIGALI

THE last Belgian forces prepared to quit Kigali, the Rwandan capital, yesterday, hours before the expiry of a rebel ultimatum to all foreign forces to leave the city after a week of tribal slaughter.

The international airport, where Belgian paratroopers and a handful of expatriates were gathering, was hit by at least six missiles from rebel positions on the edges of the city.

Aid workers said that it was not clear whether it was still possible to fly out or whether the only way out was by land to Butumbura, the capital of neighbouring Burundi.

"It's a general massacre, there are massacres going on all over the city and the country. The army is massacring, homes are being burnt down, the lot," said one aid worker. Meanwhile, Belgium yesterday mourned the death of the ten Belgian troops and six civilians who have died in the fighting. King Albert attended a memorial service at a military chapel with 200 friends and relatives of the soldiers who died. Flares throughout Belgium are at half-mast.

In Kigali, heavy fighting between regular army units and infiltrating rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) broke out for the second day running.

Belgium was trying to comply with an RPF ultimatum that foreign troops sent to evacuate their fellow citizens must be out by midnight local time. Tens of thousands are believed to have died since Juvenal Habyarimana, the Hutu Rwandan President, was killed in a rocket attack on his plane in which Cyprien Ntaryamira, the President of neighbouring Burundi, also died as they returned from regional peace talks held in Tanzania.



ELECTION COUNTDOWN

mediation. The mediators themselves said explicitly that it should not. The ANC said the date was sacrosanct. Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, insisted that the point of the mediation was to reach an accord that would enable his party to join in the elections, which it could not do under the existing timetable.

Lord Carrington, the former British Foreign Secretary, like Dr Kissinger made it clear that they had been assured by

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Speaker deal opens door to power for Berlusconi

■ The disparate forces of Silvio Berlusconi's alliance have agreed on Northern League and Forza Italia candidates for the two Speakers' posts

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

SILVIO Berlusconi's Freedom Alliance struggled to overcome the final obstacles to his becoming Prime Minister yesterday by agreeing on candidates for Speakers of the new Italian parliament which will be convened by President Scalfaro today.

The Northern League, neo-Fascist National Alliance and the television tycoon's Forza Italia named Irene Pivetti, 31, head of the League's office for Catholic affairs, as their candidate to be Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. They decided that Carlo Scognamiglio, 49, an economist and former Liberal senator now part of Forza Italia, would be their candidate for Speaker of the senate.

Francesco Speroni, a flamboyant League politician, withdrew his candidature for the senate contest. His candidacy ran into objections from the Quirinal Palace, that a representative of the devolutionist movement would be

inappropriate as the senate Speaker, who becomes acting President in the event of the latter's death or incapacity.

Voting on the Speakers is expected to begin today, paving the way for President Scalfaro to name Signor Berlusconi as Prime Minister designate next week after the resignation of Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the caretaker Prime Minister. Horse-trading within the right-wing alliance had raised the spectre that an experienced "old guard" politician such as Giovanni Spadolini, the veteran republican, might be re-affirmed as senate Speaker.

However, Roberto Maroni, the League's parliamentary leader, claimed that choosing the jovial Signor Spadolini would go against the logic of the landslide victory for the right in the general election last month. "His political career is over," Signor Maroni said of the Speaker in the outgoing parliament. "This is not the World Wildlife Fund. We can not save species in danger of extinction."

Achille Occhetto, the leader of the Party of the Left (PDS), said the opposition would propose its own candidates for the Speakers. The left and centre are expected to support Signor Spadolini. "We will fight in the Senate knowing that the election of Scognamiglio is not at all sure," Signor Occhetto said. The outcome of the battle for senate Speaker will influence a tricky confidence vote for

Ukrainians turn back Russian troop ship

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

FEARS were growing last night of a fresh confrontation between rival Russian and Ukrainian naval forces in the Black Sea Fleet, after Ukraine barred Russian ships from docking at its ports.

A Russian navy spokesman at the fleet's headquarters in Sevastopol said that a troop ship sent to rescue beleaguered Russian sailors and their families from the Ukrainian port of Odessa had been turned back, after Kiev refused to allow it to dock.

The order, issued by Vitali Radetsky, the Ukrainian Defence Minister, is the latest incident in a week of daily bouts between the two countries over sovereignty of the disputed fleet. Earlier yesterday the Ukrainian Defence Ministry accused Russia of assembling a three-ship squadron, hinting it might try to force its way into Odessa.

The fate of the 300-ship fleet is likely to dominate today's 12-nation summit meeting in Moscow of the Commonwealth of Independent States, where there are growing concerns that the daily squabbling between the two nuclear powers could deteriorate into a broader conflict. An earlier agreement to share the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet appears to have completely unravelled.

The latest dispute was provoked last Friday when a Russian survey ship left Odessa loaded with valuable navigational equipment, which it transported to the fleet's headquarters without the permission of the Ukrainian authorities. The Ukrainians responded on Sunday by sending special forces into the fleet's shore facilities in Odessa, where three senior Russian officers were arrested.



Pivetti: League's choice for post of Speaker

Signor Berlusconi in the upper house, where he does not have an absolute majority.

Signor Occhetto's Progressive Alliance made a first step toward recovery from its election debacle yesterday when most left-wing parties, including the PDS, Greens, moderate Democratic Alliance and the anti-Mafia Rete, agreed to form a single parliamentary group. However, the headline Communist Refoundation and the tiny Socialist Party decided to stay outside the new group.

Last night 122 deputies of the League and the 95 deputies of Forza Italia gleefully took over offices in Palazzo Montecitorio, the Chamber of Deputies building, that previously were occupied by the Socialists and the Christian Democrats, the parties discredited by Italy's two-year-old corruption scandal.



Balloons soaring above Lucerne's Kapellbrücke at yesterday's reopening. The contrast between pale wood and old timbers highlights the extent of the reconstruction

Historic Swiss bridge reopens in blaze of glory

FROM ANDREW MOGER IN LUCERNE

LUCERNE'S historic landmark, the Kapellbrücke, the wooden covered bridge across the Reuss river which was virtually destroyed by fire last August, reopened yesterday.

The Chapel Bridge's return to its place on the Swiss postcard trail after only eight months delighted tourist chiefs. The architectural value of the 656ft bridge, both now and in the past, has been a source of debate, though dating back to 1333, the bridge has been substantially repaired three times before.

The British once helped to dislodge the Swiss burghers from pulling down the structure to make way for a riverfront promenade to compete with popular French resorts such as Cannes. It would be "an act of desecration to destroy ruthlessly any link that connects us with the past — especially one which enhances the picturesque beauty of your town," wrote Mrs Flora Fry, of Bedford, in 1898. A 253-name petition from Manchester argued for the bridge to be saved.

After the fire, believed to have been caused by a discarded cigarette, destroyed almost 80 per cent of the bridge, dissident local people called for it to be pulled down. They argued that the £1.5 million restoration of the timbers and triangular painted roof panels, depicting the lives of St Leger and St Maurice, Lucerne's patron saints, was a waste. Hardly any part of the bridge was original, they said. Most of the cost has been covered by insurance, donations and revenue from a postage stamp.

Yesterday morning a white shroud along the length of the Kapellbrücke fell away, revealing the oak wood, fire-works erupted, a Swiss Air jet flew within 300ft of the old town roofs, tipping its wings in honour of the bridge, canoists dressed as sea creatures let off colourful flares and horn blowers and marching bands played.

Many of the 60,000 citizens queued to cross the bridge to complete the pageantry. "The Chapel Bridge is reconstructed true to the original, even if the pale timber will still remind us of the disaster of August 18 for some time," Werner Schnepf, the city's public works director, said.

Although the fire gutted most of the sides and roof of the bridge, the supporting pillars were unharmed. Rebuilding took 100 tonnes of fir and 10 tonnes of oak wood. The roof bears scant evidence of the blaze, as 29,000 old, hand-made tiles were found in Bern.

The work was tackled with positively un-Swiss haste and completed on time," Flavio Cotti, the Swiss Foreign Minister, said. Of the 111 original paintings dating from 1611 which adorned the bridge's walkway, depicting the history of the city and of Switzerland, 78 were lost. The city council plans to rehanging the paintings after they are restored in a couple of years' time.



The Lucerne bridge burning last August in a fire which destroyed almost 80 per cent of the monument

Moscow berated for Baltic stance

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN STRASBOURG

LITHUANIA yesterday called on Russia to renounce statements by extremist politicians, including Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, which denied the legality of Baltic independence.

"Russia should build its relations with neighbouring countries proceeding from the universally recognised principles of international law," President Brazauskas told the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. He also demanded an explanation of why Russia had failed to implement last year's agreement on trade and transit rights.

As long as there was no separation of powers in Russia it was difficult for Lithuania to normalise relations with its giant neighbour, he said. He also called on Russia to abandon talk of "the near abroad" and "zones of interest" when referring to the Baltics.

Mr Brazauskas said he was still optimistic and said armed Russian intervention was unlikely, especially as all former communist countries wanted to improve links with the international community.

Yesterday Mr Zhirinovskiy stormed out of the Strasbourg meeting saying he and his country had been insulted and he had found no democracy in the West. He accused the French of treating Russia like a child by imposing strict conditions on his visa and said the atmosphere in Strasbourg reminded him of the worst excesses of the Soviet Union with the same "sumptuous ceremonies, bureaucracy, talk and intolerance of criticism".

Mr Zhirinovskiy was angered by the theft of his trademark sailor's cap from the council canteen last night, which he took as evidence of Europe's moral turpitude. He was also furious that he had been denied entry into a meeting of conservative MPs who had stood shoulder to shoulder to block him.

Property scandal dents Kohl's election hopes

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

REPRESENTATIVES of 50 creditor banks met in Frankfurt yesterday to count the cost of Germany's first big property scandal, but the real price may have to be paid by Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

The disappearance of Jürgen Schneider, Germany's dominant real estate mogul, has sent shock waves through the economy. Above all, it has undermined the frailty of the Chancellor's promises to spark a construction-led economic recovery in eastern Germany. On this promise hinges his political survival: if he loses heavily in the east in October's general election there will be little chance of his Christian Democratic government returning to power.

Herr Schneider, who drew large sums from his account before disappearing with his wife, specialised in buying up old but architecturally sound buildings, remodelling them,

leasing them to wealthy tenants and using the income to buy yet more buildings. The banks trusted Herr Schneider and lent heavily. Herr Schneider's total debt was estimated yesterday at DM 5 billion (£2 billion) but the actual exposure may be far greater. Some 30 out of the 50



Kohl: promises to east thrown into doubt

creditor banks have been badly stung. It will not, however, be a fatal blow to the German banking system, and it is certainly not as serious as the recent failure of the Metallgesellschaft, the Frankfurt-based mining and metals group rescued at the last moment earlier this year. Herr Schneider has left behind some high-quality and lucrative properties that will go some way to softening the losses.

The main impact is to the credibility of German efforts to regenerate the east. Leipzig was a focus of Herr Schneider's activities. He owns street after street of buildings in the historic centre of the city and had earmarked about DM 300 million for retailing projects. About 2,000 jobs in Leipzig are said to depend on his empire.

Court case, page 24

Far-right party saved from ban

By ROGER BOYES

THE German government has decided not to ban the far-right Republikaner Party in spite of clear signs that it has links with neo-Nazi activists.

Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, presenting the annual report of the counter-espionage service yesterday, said the police would continue to monitor the party, led by a former Waffen SS member.

However, an outright ban on the party, which along with the German People's Union will be contesting elections this year, would be counter-productive, he said. The reasoning is that a ban would make martyrs of the party leaders and drive the 23,000 active members underground. The Republicans have distressed the Jewish community by challenging the historical veracity of mass extermination in concentration camps and have backed neo-Nazis who attack refugee centres.

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Since the Second World War, American forces have had a history of targeting their own

US pilots continue friendly fire saga

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE shooting down yesterday of two Black Hawk helicopters in error by two American Air Force F-15C aircraft in the Iraqi "no-fly zone" proves that friendly fire is as old as warfare itself, but the Americans do seem particularly prone to it.

In modern times, from the Second World War to the latest tragedy in Iraq, there has been a series of battlefield deaths caused by the failure of American forces to identify who they were shooting at. Perhaps it stems from the American tradition, fostered by thousands of Westerns and cops-and-robbers programmes, of shooting from the hip and asking questions afterwards. At least as likely, though, is an American over-reliance on their formidable firepower and a consequent failure to put enough emphasis on the dangers of hitting their own side.

With the 50th anniversary of D-Day coming up in June, there are unlikely to be too many references to the utter confusion that reigned in Normandy after the US 82nd and 101st airborne divisions had dropped behind the German lines. In one incident after another, blundering clusters of American troops ended up

firing on each other rather than the Germans because their radios had been lost in the botched, night-time parachute jumps and because they failed to display the orange markers they carried to identify each other. In Vietnam, the dangers of American close air support became a constant



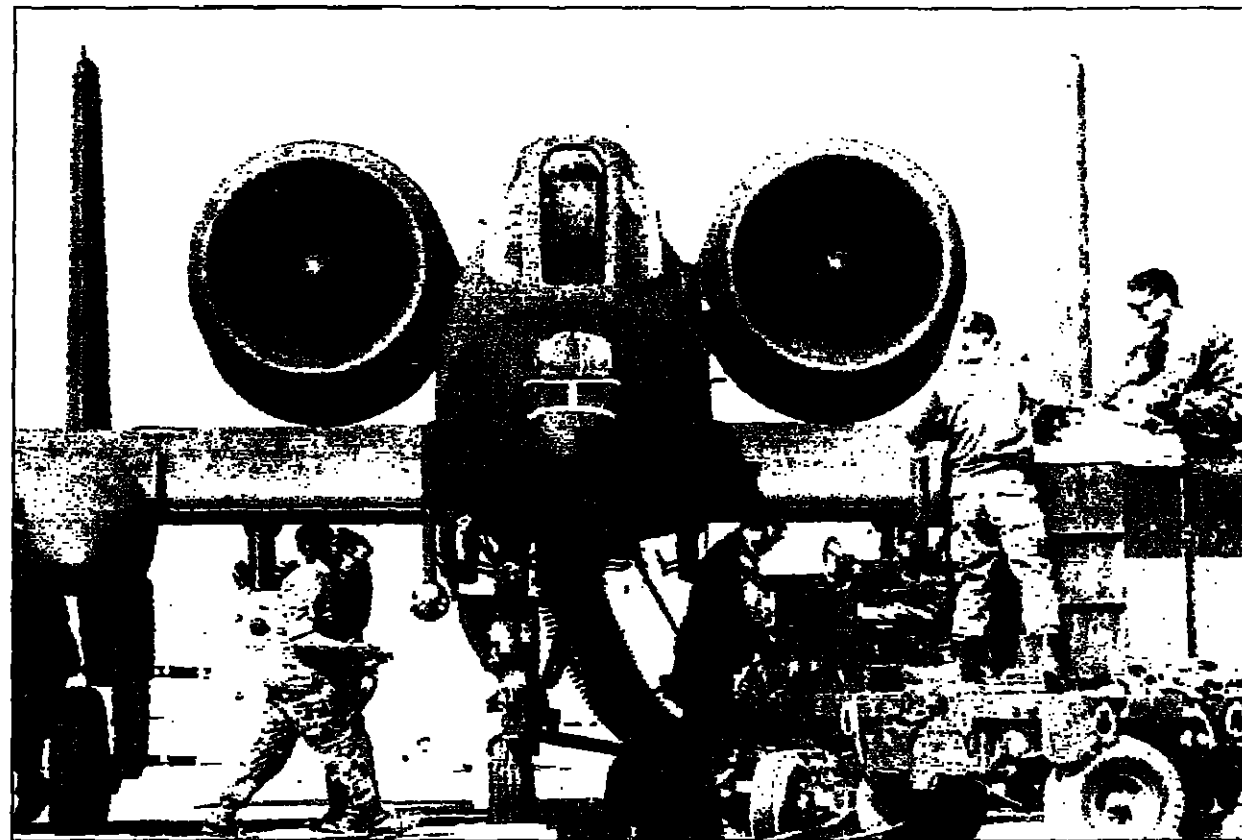
Clinton: has ordered an enquiry into incident

and terrifying consideration for troops on the ground. Young fighter pilots, pumping adrenalin, their trigger fingers itchy, repeatedly dropped flesh-burning napalm and high explosives on American-held positions instead of the enemy. The Vietnam had no navy and all the armed craft in

the Mekong Delta belonged to the Americans or their allies. Yet that did not always protect them from being raked with bombs or bullets from American aircraft and helicopters. Often equally hazardous were offshore naval guns and other artillery whose rounds fell short, squandering the lives of Americans and of Vietnamese soldiers and civilians who were supposed to be fighting on their side.

The most notorious recent incident of friendly fire cast a shadow over Anglo-American relations. It involved the deaths of nine British soldiers, and the wounding of 11 others, when their armoured troop carriers were attacked in the Iraqi desert during the Gulf War by two American A10 attack planes firing missiles. The American pilots said in affidavits that they had believed the vehicles were Iraqi tanks and that they had followed map co-ordinates provided by British air controllers.

At the inquest in Oxford, the controllers contradicted these accounts. The conflict could not be resolved because, to the anger of the dead men's relatives, the Pentagon absolutely refused to let the pilots give evidence. The coroner's jury



American airmen hook up a 30mm gun to an A10 fighter in Saudi Arabia at the height of the land battle during the Gulf War. Friendly fire from an A10 — branded reckless at the inquest — killed nine British soldiers

reached a verdict of unlawful killing, meaning that the pilots acted not just in a careless but a reckless manner.

The Pentagon's insistence that the pilots should not be cross-examined at the inquest was justified on the grounds that warriors cannot be called to account for their actions in the heat of battle. If they were, the argument runs, their war-

like spirit would be quenched. It is not possible, the Americans said, to be wholly combative and heroic under fire while at the same time worrying about the board of enquiry that may follow. Accidents happen, the Pentagon said, that is a fact of war.

The argument is a strong one, but the lack of punitive measures resulting from acts

of friendly fire may explain why they keep occurring. President Clinton, in his role as the Commander-in-Chief of the American armed forces, said yesterday he had ordered a full investigation. Commanders always say that after things go wrong. But a highly publicised court martial, followed by a loss of promotion for the most senior officers

involved, is virtually unknown. If dire consequences were more inevitable for the perpetrators and their superiors, a more intensive training programme to identify one's allies and a decrease in incidents of friendly fire would assuredly follow.

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Leading article, page 17

Baghdad diplomats held over killing

FROM REUTERS IN BEIRUT

LEBANON asked Iraq yesterday to lift the immunity of two of its diplomats arrested after the murder in Beirut of an opponent of President Saddam Hussein. The move is aimed at paving the way for putting the diplomats on trial. Iraq denied they were involved in the killing.

The only Lebanese diplomat in Baghdad has been called home, but Fares Boueiz, the Foreign Minister, said it was premature to say whether Beirut would cut ties over the killing and he hoped Iraq would co-operate. "Lebanon cannot be taken advantage of, not under the diplomatic cover or diplomatic immunity, to settle scores and to practise crime," Mr Boueiz said.

Baghdad has been asked to lift the immunity of Khaled Khalaf, the commercial attaché, and Muhammad Ka-them, the cultural attaché. The two diplomats, both said to be armed, were arrested on Wednesday, hours after the murder of Taleb-as-Suhail, an Iraqi dissident. The Lebanese authorities believe the two men are intelligence agents.

East Timor protest mars Indonesian publicity offensive

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN DILI, EAST TIMOR

A HANDFUL of protesters carrying banners calling for the freedom of Indonesian-occupied East Timor and for the release of José Xanana Gusmão, the jailed Fretilin guerrilla leader, staged a brief but vocal demonstration in the East Timorese capital of Dili yesterday.

It was the first such reported expression of dissent since Indonesian troops fired on unarmed civilians at a cemetery here in November 1991, killing up to 180 people. The

activists appeared to escape as police quickly closed in.

The demonstrators flung their banners into the hotel's foyer before running off. One called for freedom for Mr Gusmão, serving a 20-year prison term after his capture in 1992.

Given the presence of the journalists, the security forces were probably under orders not to be heavy-handed, should such a protest occur, if precedent is anything to go by, the five risked harsh treatment by Indonesian authorities if caught later.

Indonesia is permitting the foreign press to visit this remote former Portuguese colony — which it invaded in 1975 and has kept largely under wraps for years — in an effort to bolster its case for the United Nations to recognise Jakarta's sovereignty over the impoverished territory of sandalwood and coffee which it annexed in 1976 after its brutal invasion.

Since then, up to 200,000 people — although the figure is in dispute — out of a population of 750,000 are said to have been killed in fighting in Indonesia's "27th province", or have died of starvation after fleeing into the forest in what has been called Indonesia's forgotten war.



protest by five men, who began shouting "Long Live East Timor" outside Dili's government-run Mahkota Hotel, where a party of foreign correspondents is staying, lasted less than two minutes. But given the violent methods used to suppress earlier demonstrations, there was surprise it happened at all. The

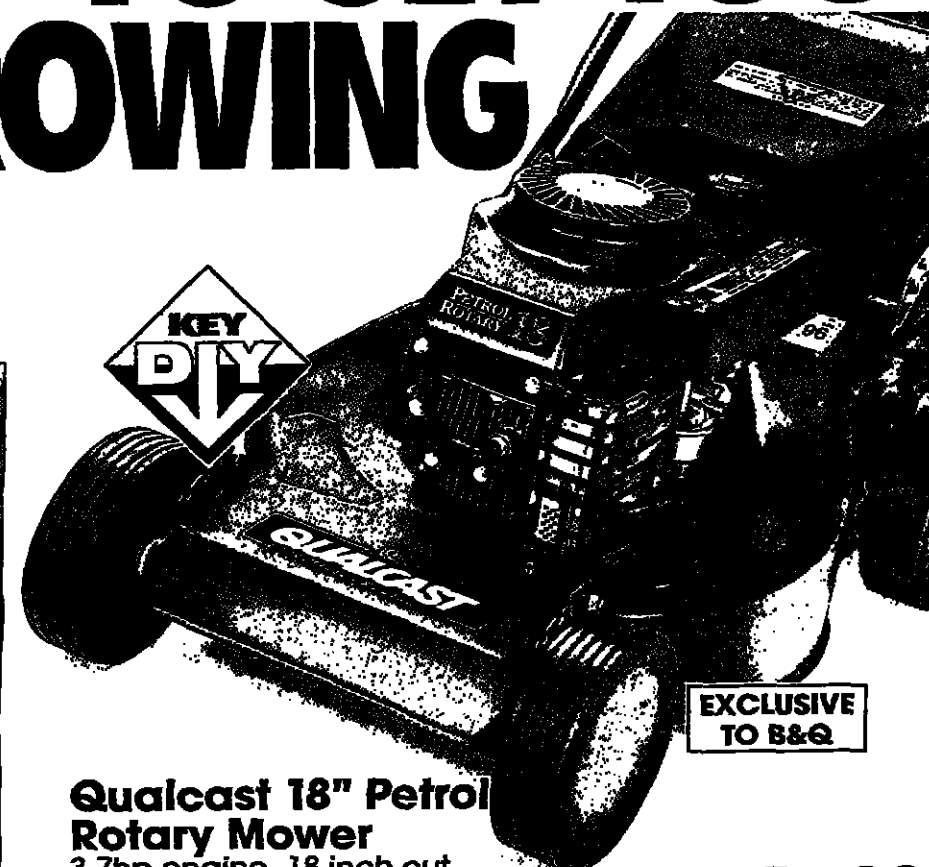


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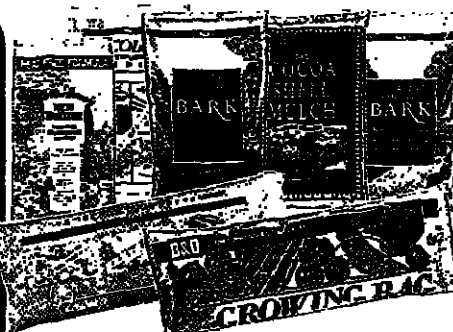
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Ex-King Constantine on the unfortunate loss of one's country — and the impossibility of acquiring a surname

'All Greeks are homesick — it is their nature'

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

For God's sake, let us sit upon the ground, and tell sad stories of the death of kings: How some have been deposed... For a king stripped of kingship, Constantine does not look stricken: he is an affable figure of commanding height and with an explosive smoker's laugh. His chain supply of Pallas cigarettes, not available here, comes from a kind friend in Greece.

Why does Andreas Papandreu, the septuagenarian Prime Minister with the bimboid consort Dimitra, dislike Constantine so? To strip him of his passport, citizenship and property rights must mean that he regards the former king as a very dangerous threat indeed.

The former king has a theory about it. In 1964, when he was that rather dazzling young monarch in a white uniform festooned with tassels and medals, he was not yet 23 and had just lost his father, King Paul I. The present Papandreu's father, George, was then Prime Minister and took young "Tino" under his wing. Pap the elder was witty, charming and almost grandfatherly: "It was always a pleasure when he came into my office."

Indeed, from what Constantine says, it is plain that they often conspired about government matters, ministerial appointments, coalitions. And Constantine is convinced that Papandreu the younger — finance minister in his own father's Cabinet — conceived a jealousy that has festered ever since. "Don't mistake me, Andreas Papandreu has great charm, too. But it has become very plain that he does not like me. That, certainly, is his privilege. But what he cannot do is take away my nationality, or my human rights."

All the old Euro-monarchs have such bloody and romantic histories. I once visited the sad Michael of Romania, who showed me sepia photographs of his turreted castle, and a De Laszlo portrait of himself when he ascended the throne, at the age of six, incongruous on the wall of his villa in the Geneva suburb of Versoix. Constantine, too, chooses to live out of the city, in a secluded redbrick 1930s house in Hampstead Garden Suburb. Princess Theodora, aged ten, and Philippos aged eight, pedal past the windows and across the acre of garden overlooking the heath. "My mother-in-law is my gardener," says the king. That is Queen Ingrid of Denmark, mother of the present Danish queen and of Constantine's wife Anne-Marie, whom he fell in love with when she was 15.

Each picture on the wall tells a story. That lady in black is Queen Olga, my great-grandmother, painted by Laszlo all in black



because her husband George II, brother of Queen Alexandra of this country, has just been assassinated. This is Alexander I who died after being bitten in the leg by the gardener's pet chimpanzee. (Gangrene had set in, he explained, caused by dye from his socks; amputation was resisted because it was a royal leg, a fatal decision.) That is a painting of our house in Corfu, given to me by my aunt Helen, Queen of Romania. And this is a water-colour of Crete.

'Papandreu may not like me — but he has no right to take away my nationality as a Greek and my human rights'

painted by Prince Charles as he sailed by on his honeymoon...

Constantine heard his bleak news at Easter when he stepped ashore having skipped a yacht through storm-tossed seas off Majorca, ecstatic to win the race "at a decrepit 53", since, apart from his annual spree at Cowes with cousin Philip, he has not raced since he won an Olympic gold for Greece in 1960. His sister-in-law, Queen Sophia of Spain, presented him with a handsome trophy — and then came the Reuter's fax, which he thought, since it was April 1, must be a *poisson d'avril*.

His Easter, he adds, is the Greek one, which is not until May 1. How Greek is he? people ask. He protests that his *pedia* (upbringings) formed him: he was born in Greece, he thinks in Greek, his emotions and mentality are Greek. "And it is in the nature of my country that all Greeks are homesick." He talks to his children in Greek (all five attended the Hellenic College in Knighthbridge, which he founded) but to his wife in

English. Even after 27 years his English has occasional Slavisms like: "In my passport it writes, 'Constantine, former king of the Hellenes'."

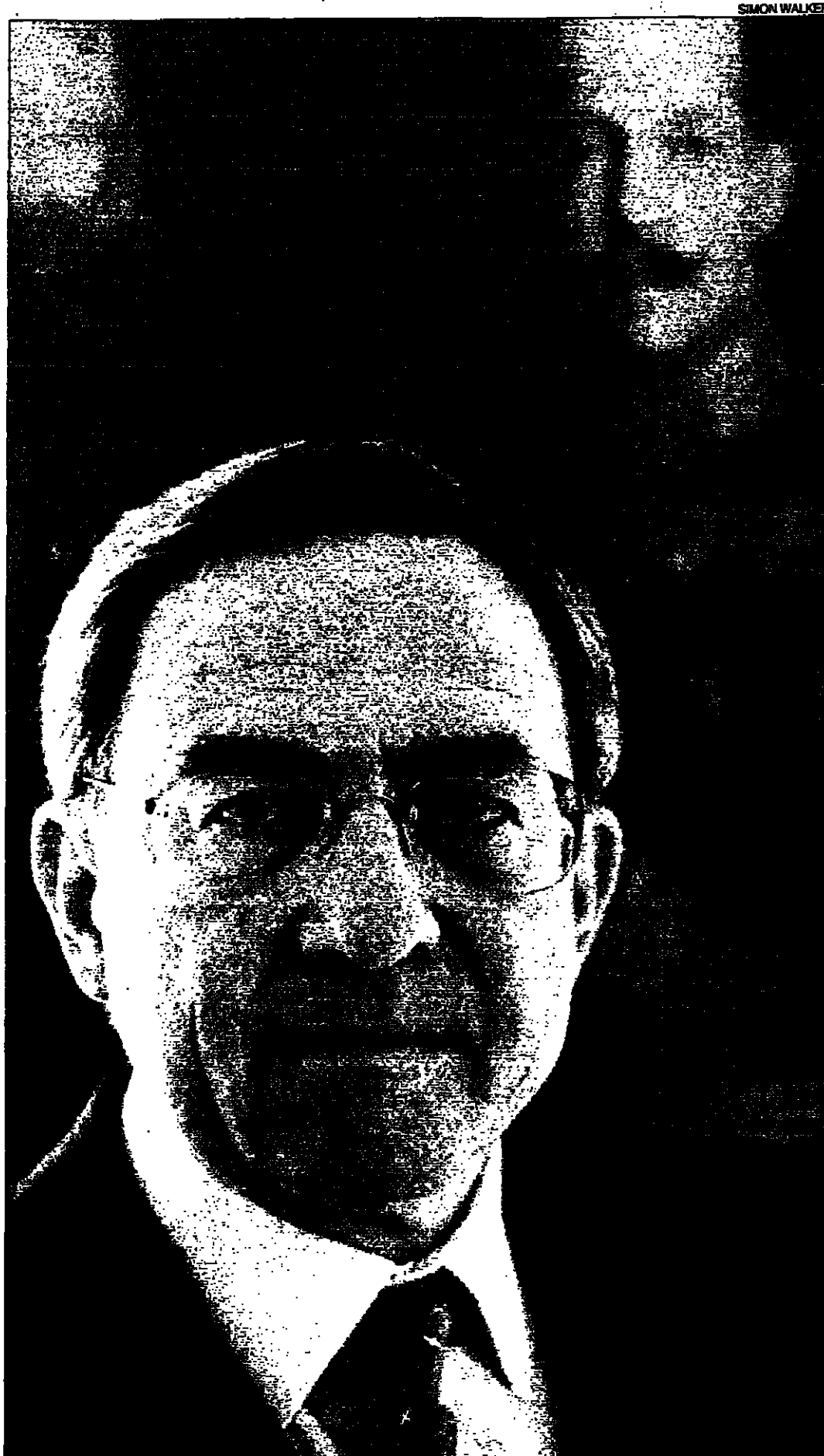
This now redundant Greek passport, the horrid little red European one, declares the identity he clings to. He has no other name, he insists; his great-grandfather came from the royal house of Denmark, which has no surname. "You can change your name, but you cannot acquire one, by law. I have no surname. I can only be what I am."

But it is futile to try to square monarchs with their blood nationalities: all Euro-royals are from the same labyrinthine, pan-European, polyglot dynasty. Constantine tells a funny story about Christian IX who, when walking in a park with his family, was asked by a passer-by the way to the gate. "Follow us," said Christian. The man asked who they were. "Well, I am the king," he replied. "And that is my son the King of Greece; that is my son the Crown Prince; that is my daughter the Queen of England; that is my other daughter the Empress of Russia, and my daughter the Duchess of Cumberland."

On Constantine's silver wedding the family massed at torch-lit Elsinore to be entertained by Victor Borge: on his 50th birthday they feasted at Spencer House in London. "When we all get together, it is hysterical. The last time was in September, for the wedding anniversary of the King of Norway, and there were the Belgians, the Dutch, the Luxembourgers, the Greeks, the Spaniards, the British, the Swedes, the Danes, all getting into buses and onto boats and scrambling up mountains. We are just a family, no matter who has a throne."

But there is no precedent in Europe of an ex-king free to come and go in his homeland. If he had stayed, he might have been like his brother-in-law Juan-Carlos of Spain, who could quell an attempted army coup overnight. Ex-royals bereft of royal status are rootless: ex-King Michael became a market gardener, then a test pilot in Switzerland. Constantine's father, Paul, obliged to leave Greece under a previous spasm of Hellenic republicanism, took a job as an aircraft mechanic at Armstrong Siddeley. Michael of Romania told me, "I am asked, where do you feel at home? But wherever I am, no matter how nice people are, I am a fish out of water."

Constantine, too, wears a mask of ineffable misery when he contemplates being unable to return to Greece. "It would be the worst thing. To me, 27 years feels like



The former King Constantine — with, in the background, a portrait of his grandfather

yesterday. But I can't believe this law will last. It is such an illegal act, such an inhuman act. I am sure the Strasbourg court will reverse it. It is just not done, to behave like that. And it is unprovoked."

Well, unless he is just trying to divert attention from his domestic and international problems, Papandreu plainly regards Constantine's trip home last summer as a provocation. It might have been very different, if Constantine's counter-coup against the Greek

colonels in 1967 had succeeded: but he had no hope of that. "It never could have succeeded. Kings do not have conspiratorial minds. All communication was cut off. And a civil war would have meant bloodshed." He and his mother, wife and children fled to Rome, which was as far as their fuel lasted; then to Britain.

He has now spent more years in exile than at home in his infancy: his family fled from Mussolini to Crete, and from the Nazis to Egypt

and to South Africa, where he remembers General Smuts dropping hold of his two-year-old hand in order to chase a cow from his flowerbeds. Lately he returned to South Africa — where Mr Mandela, President de Klerk and the Zulu king all came hot-foot to his hotel — and discovered that there are still two cows at the old Smuts house: it was stipulated in perpetuity in Cecil Rhodes's will.

The former king says his sources of income are "a private matter".

What is known is that he made over to the Greek government most of Tatoi's forested land — worth more than he owed in taxes — to be a green space, wildlife sanctuary and picnic area for Athenians who otherwise have none. He aspires only to free access to one of the cottages on that land, where his mother Frederika and his ancestors are buried. He could not possibly maintain the great house at Tatoi, now dark and locked, though still crammed with dustsheet-shrouded family chattels. All he brought out, three years ago, were some old personal things, portraits like the one behind him, of his father in shirtsleeves revealing a forearm tattooed with flying fish. These were all authorised and stamped by Greek customs, not "smuggled out" as Papandreu accuses.

His cosy smoke-filled office in Mayfair is littered with icons: there, last summer, he mapped out for me his triumphal progress with his family through their homeland: the beaches where they bought ice-creams, the harbours where crowds gathered, the tear-filled departure from Santorini. The point of that trip was to keep his children in touch with their heritage: their hearts were warmed by the welcome of the people, while Papandreu's gunboats and aircraft circled over the yacht *Myrta*.

Although the timing of the visit was that all five children were available: Alexia, after three years teaching in the East End, now teaches Down's children in Barcelona; Pavlos is at Georgetown University, Washington, where his father recommends a small Greek restaurant named Aleko; Nikolaos works in American television. The cushion in Constantine's study may strike a chord with parents everywhere: "Money isn't everything — but it sure keeps you in touch with your children."

Having long refrained from criticising the Greek government, he spoke out this week about Greece's unemployment problems, his stance on Macedonia, and on Cyprus, and its defiance of the European Union over which it nominally presides. Does Papandreu's aggression render him free to speak? "I do not want to become a focus of opposition to the government," he says. "That is not what I am about. All I want is to be as free as any private citizen."

He says he would not be so incensed if Papandreu were some kind of dictator. "But it bothers me that a free democratic nation acts in such a barbaric fashion. It hurts a lot. It's a horrible feeling." Can't he make some sort of deal, promising good behaviour? "How do you deal with someone who doesn't talk to you? And if I was going to do something, why didn't I do it last summer?"

In the European Union six countries are republics and six are constitutional monarchies. I think the six monarchies are very happy with what they have got — but then so are the republics! More Pallas-timed laughter. Cheering faxes have just arrived: a House of Commons early day motion ("whatever that is") tabled by Greville Janner and Seb Coe; and a US Senate statement by the venerable Senator Claiborne Pell. Both deplored Papandreu's action. At least in exile King Constantine is among friends.

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Why are America's super-rich chanting ommmmmm?

In New York the New Age is being reclothed in pin-stripes and pearls. No longer are psychics, herbalists and gurus the territory of the bearded ones. Instead, the New Age has gone urban and upmarket, and Wall Street traders, advertising agencies, megapublishers and politicians are buying into some very expensive inner peace.

Take the New Age convert Richard Kirschenbaum, a 33-year-old advertising executive with his own \$140 million-a-year company. He admits publicly to consulting astrologers and psychics for advice on every aspect of his life. If Mr Kirschenbaum was moving his Manhattan office, he would consult a psychic. "Certain places just have good karma," he says.

Browsing the growing Psychic Life Readings section in the phonebook, it is clear that advice on business is being advertised as much as advice on love. Cathy, "Wall Street's European Psychic", has hot advice on bonds, gold prices and, of course, the futures market. Her consultations "depending on complexity" cost up to \$85 (£50).

Meanwhile in publishing, another trade in which predictions of taste are useful, the big houses are behaving in a decidedly unharmonious manner. Warner books paid \$800,000 for *The Celestine Prophecy*, about the discovery of a book of philosophy in the Amazon jungle. This is now at number one on the hardback fiction list.

Top of the non-fiction hardback bestsellers' list? Betty Eadie's *Embraced by the Light*, about her near-death experience in hospital. Ms Eadie's paperback rights have just been sold for \$1.5 million. Then there is the

reported \$1 million advance for the unlikely-sounding *Mutant Message Down Under*, in which a Mid-western woman goes trekking with some spiritual aboriginals. Is all this a new crisis in belief? Susan Muldow, who bought *Mutant* for HarperCollins, says that people seem to be feeling restless and dissatisfied. "They're fed up with the emptiness of their lives, and they're looking for something else."

Nothing fills emptiness like shopping, as many hearsick women know. New York's New Agers can flex plastic at the first New Age department store, Felissino, on 56th



KATE MUIR

Street, just down from Louis Vuitton and Chanel. Felissino may be natural, but it is not cheap. A wrapped rock — a paperweight — is \$20, and \$100 will barely get you a nightwear made of all-natural undyed cotton and linen, what

"Mother Nature would wear if she ever went to sleep", says the label. For \$25 there is a New Age gift box containing four little advice books, a piece of clay, a cloth and a rock. The ultimate proof to many that the New Age is upon the rich is the recent conversion of that icon of Eighties womanhood, Maria Maples Trump, to spiritual enlightenment. She confessed in *New York* magazine this month that her healer "calls in the angels to bring us to our higher power. It's grounding and balancing." She discusses her collection of crystals: "Rose quartz: it is supposed to exude warmth and love."

This curious behaviour among previously sane and greedy people is being blamed on the approaching millennium; perhaps it is more a question of hedging bets on all fronts, spiritual and material, as Gotham City grows uneasy. Perhaps the whole country is going the way of enlightenment — suddenly 93 per cent of Americans say in a *U.S. News* poll that they "believe in God or a universal spirit". The First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, has said that America has suffered from "a sleeping sickness of the soul". As a successful commodities trader, who multiplied her investments by an amazing hundredfold, she wondered coyly: "Who will lead us out of this spiritual vacuum?"

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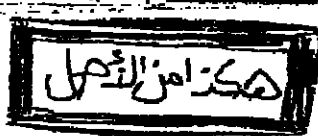
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What are happy families made of?

Ignored by researchers, they eat together, play together and stay sane together. Catherine Milton looks for the special ingredient

The Vitoz family is happy. Looking providence squarely in the eye, Patrick, Judith and their three sons are categorical about this. "We met and within four days Patrick and I were living together," says Mrs Vitoz.

"I wouldn't put it as cornily as love at first sight. But we knew exactly where it was going. We knew if we ever had the courage to make the first step, that would be it. And it was. We are happy."

Buffeted as we are by scare stories about single mothers and absent fathers, as well as real horror stories about child abuse, it is easy to forget that many families do not fail and that some are even content. A quarter of a century since they met as students at Manchester University, the Vitozes are still holding hands on sofas and finishing each other's sentences without realising it. Across Britain there are millions like them: the quietly happy families that, if you believe Tolstoy, must resemble one another.

The adult Vitozes live and work together. They are the parents of Daniel, 16, Roland, 11, and Adam, eight, and the Vitoz Partnership, a firm of architects based in their large Stockport house in the town's Heaton Moor suburb.

Their happiness hits you like the smell of good food. Sitting around the supper table, they are celebrating Roland's confessions of a string of boyish crimes (chief among them, squirting the neighbour, in her new top, with weak bleach solution while he was out roller-blading with his brothers).

"He has learnt the art of subterfuge," says Mr Vitoz, 49, delicately, "so it is really rather a turning point." And he chivies the younger two to bed.

They do not claim to be perfect. He has an irritating habit of talking over his wife, and fidgeting constantly with his glasses while she puts her view. But then she has a simple, forceful way of shutting him up. "Hang on, I want to say something," Mrs Vitoz, 46, says her husband makes her mad sometimes. "Even I don't like

myself sometimes, love. You know that," Mr Vitoz says reproachfully. It definitely works. The question is, why should they be happy while others are wretched?

Ian Goodyer, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Cambridge University, says that hardly any academic research has looked at the actively happy, as opposed to the downright distressed, or even the straightforwardly normal.

"It is known that normals are rather ordinary and boring. They are not particularly happy and not particularly unhappy," Professor Goodyer says. "For my money we don't really know what makes people all right. But the closest we have to an answer is that their perceptions of what should be match up with what is."

Mrs Dowling, consultant child psychologist at the Tavistock Clinic, north London, is a little less abstract. Like Professor Goodyer, she cites the need for enough money to cover the basics. But she adds that families which show affection, laugh and talk together, control the use of gadgets and manage strife, are more likely to find happiness.

"A capacity for humans to laugh together and listen to each other is important. The modern gadgets militate against the possibility of families just talking together," she says.

Mrs Vitoz describes her family as physically very relaxed. "We don't go in for a lot of sort of kissing. But we all pile into the bathroom together and the boys are used to seeing us starkers and so on." Mr Vitoz, French by birth, says he likes to kiss and hug everyone.

Mrs Dowling will be glad to learn that the Vitoz family banished computer games to a coldish cellar after Adam became an addict (he is now hooked on Monopoly). They cracked down on television during the week, take regular family sailing holidays and eat their evening meals together.

The business is the main worry and they mutter darkly about bad faith and recession. They clearly have money though. The boys are



Patrick and Judith Vitoz at home with their sons (from left) Adam, Roland and Daniel: "Physically we're very relaxed: we all pile into the bathroom together."

at private schools and the family owns a "ruin" in south-west France, another regular holiday haunt.

They have had at least their share of blight. In the autumn of 1989 Mrs Vitoz was diagnosed as having breast cancer. In addition to a mastectomy, she has had, she says smiling, a "variety of ecstasies" after further cancers were identified. The last operation was in January this year. "If the boat was going to be rocked, that would have done it, I suppose," says Mrs Vitoz.

There can be no remission from Mr Vitoz's unhappy childhood. Mrs Dowling adheres to the view that happiness tends to reproduce itself, as does unhappiness. But she adds: "It is very important for people to feel that there is hope that they can change the script of their lives; that they don't have to repeat their experience."

A good relationship with a teacher, for example, could make up for a lot, she believes. It is unlikely to be the explanation for the success of Mr Vitoz, who also

looks to his family as the cause of his problems, and some of his sons'. He is the child of two neurotic French doctors whose own marriage failed and who found their son Patrick so difficult that they sent him away to an English public school to knock him into shape. He hated it.

The Vitozes know the score. They have read the papers. "Patrick had no fathering. Statistically, he should not be happily married," says Mrs Vitoz. Her husband puts it down to his wife, daughter of a

manager at what is now British Airways and a secretary. Their marriage was spectacularly happy. Mr Vitoz used to be, he admits, an arrogant cynic with a football team of girlfriends. It was Mrs Vitoz who made him the man who today loves to cuddle his sons. There is no hint of infidelity. "We have always had a very good and very active sex life," he says.

Whatever the experts say, Mr and Mrs Vitoz believe their marriage has succeeded because of their first four days together.

Everything else is largely irrelevant. "When the commitment occurred it was irresistible," Mr Vitoz says. "The only question was whether we had the courage to let go — and that was a kind of vertiginous feeling. It throws all your bits up into the air and they come down and it is never the same again."

Mrs Vitoz agrees and then ruins it all for those of us taking mental notes: "It's that — and the extraordinary luck we had in meeting each other in the first place."

Solzhenitsyn is returning to his homeland, and a new role full of danger

Eighteen years ago Alexander Solzhenitsyn, banished from the Soviet Union, arrived in Cavendish, Vermont, and fenced off his newly-acquired 50-acre estate to deter the curious. He apologised to a town meeting for the inconvenience to hunters and snowmobilers, but said it would not last. One day Russia would be liberated. "When that day comes I will thank you very much for being good friends and neighbours and will go home."

Solzhenitsyn's seemingly-preposterous prediction proved correct. The Evil Empire did collapse. Next month he will arrive back at the same Moscow airport where on February 13, 1974, he was bundled onto a plane to Germany, the first major figure expelled from the Soviet Union since Trotsky.

Solzhenitsyn, now 75, recently attended another town meeting to say his promised

The rebel that Russia forgot

farewells: "You were very understanding. You forgave me my unusual way of life, and even took it upon yourself to protect my privacy... I could not imagine a better place to live, and wait, and wait for my return."

The 1,323 inhabitants of Cavendish not only left the literary giant alone, but ensured that no one else disturbed him. Solzhenitsyn's youngest son, Stephan, a Harvard student, says that spiritually his father never left Russia.

He and his brothers Yermolai and Ignat attended local schools and are thoroughly Americanised. Their

half-brother, Dmitri, restored vintage motorcycles in New York before dying of a heart attack last month. They and their mother all took US citizenship, but Solzhenitsyn remained utterly aloof from the country in which he has spent his exile, rarely leaving a property replete with a Russian Orthodox chapel and chosen because its long winters and birch woods reminded him of home.

The town meetings apart, his only other public appearances in Cavendish was to watch a 1991 parade. He still speaks English poorly. He keeps abreast of events through the BBC World Service, Voice of America and Tass news wires, and his wife, Natalya, has been his intermediary with the world.

They once drove across America to visit Stan-ard's Hoover Institution but have never taken a holiday in the country. Stephan rejects the caricature of his father as a recluse in a self-made gulag. He says he had to choose between immersing himself in America or his life's mission of fighting communism. In America Solzhenitsyn "lived to write", and produced *The Red Wheel*, a vast four-volume work on the Russian revolution.

"Purely for my work, the 18 years in Vermont have been the happiest of my life," Solzhenitsyn told the *New Yorker* magazine in a rare interview. "I have not had one creative drought. Seven days a week, 365 days a year, without holidays or vacations, I have worked."

If Solzhenitsyn did not embrace America, neither did America's cultural elite embrace Solzhenitsyn. He arrived a hero, but in three early speeches berated the West for weakness towards the Soviet Union, and for its moral and cultural decline. The media turned negative. On the flimsiest of evidence he was labelled authoritarian,

dangerously nationalistic, anti-semitic. He complained of "sagging abuses" by the press that undoubtedly encouraged his disengagement. Solzhenitsyn believed that while dictatorships crushed any criticism, "free nations would love it", Stephan said. "He did not make a point of being diplomatic in how he criticised."

He also insisted that his father's reproaches stemmed from his belief in America, not the opposite. America in the 1970s was wracked by "insecurity, soul-searching, guilt about Vietnam, the idea that maybe the communists were right all along — to see America being weak in its fight against the Evil Empire was what made him criticise it."

Solzhenitsyn has survived war, labour camps, cancer, internal and external exile, but his homecoming will not end his odyssey. Communism's debris is crushing his homeland. He plans no more great literary works, and will reject public office, but is determined to speak out as a "sane voice" in a land overrun by anarchy and organised crime.

It is a dangerous role. Hundreds of Russians have written to Solzhenitsyn, some begging him to return but those who "weep for communism" warning him away. "The Mafia understand that if I was not going to make peace with the KGB I certainly would not with them," he told the *New Yorker*. He has called Vladimir Zhirinovskiy a "clown" and rudely disabused those who hoped he would espouse the ultra-nationalists' cause.

Solzhenitsyn faces another, almost crueler, danger: indifference. To many Russians he is a figure who belongs to the past. His books, once banned, are now either unpublished or unbought. "Andropov was smart," Stephan conceded. In expelling his father he "rightly guessed and probably effected his poor reception in the West". Inside the Soviet Union he ensured that "people my age could grow up not knowing who Solzhenitsyn was".

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Philip Howard



■ Who on earth claimed that you needed brains to act Shakespeare anyway?

Behind the greasepaint of every star hides a hack hoping to escape detection. After the 90th birthday tributes to the man who has played the definitive Prospero and Lear for this generation, as though Shakespeare himself were directing, Sir John Gielgud has spilled the beans.

In his only birthday interview, which he disingenuously gave to that magazine printed on candyfloss, *Hellot*, Gielgud confesses that he does not enjoy reading the plays of Shakespeare, most of which he has never understood. He says: "I'm very frivolous. I have a shallow nature. I'm a flibbertigibbet, really, always absorbed in silly details. I don't like examining very much how I act. I'm not at all an intellectual and I've never been able to take an interest in politics." Allowing a certain amount of spin for irony and the teasing known in the trade as "Gielgudisms", this has a ring of truth.

The theatrical fallacy consists of supposing that great actors and actresses are like the parts they play once they are off-stage. But acting is all about pseudo sincerity. Once you can fake honesty, you can act. That is why Stanislavsky's Method of getting actors to clutch their brows and think themselves laboriously into the psychologies of the roles they are playing is so bad for actors. They are not paid to think, and acting is not a cerebral trade but an emotional technique. Whenever actors get together away from the theatre, they chatter about money — just like poets and other artists. Away from the footlights, Laurence Olivier was like a small-town bank manager on his way to Rotary. In the pub, David Garrick was a boozey gossip about the latest sexual scandal, and so are the actors when they let their hair down in their club named after him. Gielgud has written to the Garrick requesting that they arrange no surprise celebration for his birthday. Prima donna-ism is the occupational vice of the acting classes, but the best of them do not like talking up their trade seriously, because they know it is 90 per cent inspired bluff and technique. To be pompous about it might court bad luck.

When Noël Coward, was directing his *Nude with a Violin* on Broadway, an earnest young Method actor asked him for an in-depth psychoanalysis of the part he was playing. Coward replied, with the admirable cynicism of an old pro: "My dear boy, forget about the motivation. Just say the lines and don't trip over the furniture." Glenda Jackson, who has alas pretty well left the stage for the less useful cockpit of Westminster, had the appropriately technical attitude to the profession she has adorned with such fire and intelligence, when she was quoted as saying: "The important thing in acting is to be able to laugh and cry. If I have to cry, I think of my sex life. If I have to laugh, I think of my sex life."

There is evidence that Shakespeare himself loved the childishness of actors, and that the wits at the Mermaid sparkled about rude gossip rather than more intellectual matters. Nobody who did not love the follies of actors could have written Hamlet's advice to the players. Shakespeare understood that actors are the only humans that cannot be cured.

Gielgud speaks his lines with an intelligence as if Shakespeare were thinking them. But he is a technician about his genius. He has never played Othello, having said: "I don't really know what jealousy is." He thought for a bit, then added: "Oh, yes, I do. I remembered. When Larry [Olivier] had a success as Hamlet, I wept."

Gielgud is embarrassed by the vanity and self-serving fuss of the luvvies. As a director, he says he becomes impatient if he does not get results quickly. When directing, Sir John once told his actors that all men must wear jockstraps under their leotards. A voice asked: "Please, Sir John, does that apply to those of us who have only small parts?"

All great men and women, whether politicians or intellectuals, are clay at least up to the waist. Even Shakespeare himself was quite happy to chuck in the bright lights and retire to a bourgeois life at Stratford. He would have wept and laughed and applauded Gielgud's performances of his great roles by the first player of our day. But he would also have recognised the craftsmanship of an old pro.



Big bumbling business

The cobbler should stick to his last. So runs the ancient wisdom, and over the centuries it has generally been heeded. Kings have ruled, tailors have stitched, bakers have made bread, soldiers have fought, singers have sung, boxers have punched, comedians have made us laugh (particularly when Sir Nicholas Lyell went about claiming to be a lighthouse and turned out to be nothing but a droopy stalk of asparagus).

Take me for my living I write newspaper articles and books, and any suggestion that I should instead or in addition become a trapeze artist, a painter in watercolours, or a maker of pieces of dark glass for looking at eclipses through would be politely but unequivocally rejected.

So it had always been; but of late the unwritten law has been broken again and again, so much so that it has ceased to be remarkable when we see chimney-sweeps selling encyclopaedias on the never-never, zoo-keepers in Holy Orders, and fishermen going down a stint of trepanning when the weekend's quiet.

Or rather: we do not see such agile chimney-sweeps, zoo-keepers and fishermen getting into deep waters; the men and women who are expert in their trades do not, sensibly, dabble in others' business. There is only one category in which the practitioners think that they know everything and therefore do not need to understand anything, and that, of course, is big business.

Come, let me make your flesh creep. It doesn't really matter where I start, but pulling out the first packet of papers from the file released something like an avalanche, so I might as well take the hint and put QMH in the frame first.

QMH stands for Queens Moat Houses, a mighty pillar of capitalism, safe as — well as Queens Moat Houses, I suppose. QMH was (oh, yes, there's a pun) a was in this story, and some are very washed indeed a huge hotel group. It boasted, as I said it might, that it had — in Britain and other countries — no fewer than 200 hotels. That tremendous portfolio was valued at a billion pounds — why, the noughts alone, lined up side by side, would have needed a sheet of paper this wide, or even that wide.

Hark to the chairman: "Growth, expansion and increased earnings are our clear philosophy and we have two billion pounds of property on our books." No wonder the company could afford a private jet costing £2 million, together with a £5 million villa (the chairman had his own villa for

Know-it-all financial giants have a habit of stumbling into minefields and being astonished when they're blown sky high

some time). The next shareholders' meeting was scheduled, and the profit figure was going to be around £80 million. Then...

Bong!
Splat!
Etcetera!
Especially etcetera, for so far from resting on a bed of one billion, with two billions' worth of property on the books, and everything set fair to tell a delighted shareholders meeting that £80 million will be uncorked as soon as the chairman can find a corkscrew, it turned out that QMH was £1.3 billion in debt, the value of the properties the company owned were something like a tenth of what they had been valued at, and the shares were suspended.

Well, yes. But that is not the bit in which I make your hair stand on end. The bit that will lift your hats is that *nobody had been robbing the business, nobody had a hand in the till, nobody had been transferring the money in the company* to the remote Bahamas: upright and unbending were those who managed the whole debacle of incompetence, stupidity and not being up to the job. (There is always a special *bonne bouche* in these stories; this one was a corker. While QMH was trying to get to grips with its £1.3 billion debt, its directors were lashing out on very nice cars: one of them collared a £35,000 Jaguar, and the rest were suitably accommodated — so suitably, that their total bill for cars came to something in the region of a quarter of a million.)

But what about IBM? This is — was — no rocky company, no dealer in products that the public didn't want, no spendthrift directors declaring that it will all come right on the night. IBM is — was — one of the greatest organisations in the world, selling gigantic numbers of massive mainframe computers and every other kind of such modern help in getting around in this computerised world: IBM was proud to declare that, with revenues at \$65 billion, it exceeded

the entire gross domestic product of New Zealand. IBM spent \$9 billion a year on research and development alone, and the 1994 results showed that the company profits were, after tax, \$7 billion. Why, was not the company called, with beautiful haughtiness "International Business Machines", confident that the world would invariably make the appropriate sounds — Eye, Bee, Emme? And duly the world obliged.

But somehow, almost at the same moment that these wonderful figures were to be announced, somebody discovered that IBM was so far up the spout that it was not \$7 billion on the right of the ledger but *five billion on the wrong*, and the only consolation for IBM was that it had easily broken the previous world record of a figure in the red.

Bernard Levin

Whump!
Boom!
Tink! (As of broken glass.)
Again, my disclaimer: nobody was ripping off the giant; nobody was creeping into the building in the middle of the night stealing hundreds of computers; nobody was taking home the blueprints of the next IBM computer models and selling them to IBM's rivals; nobody was diverting the cash-flow to unauthorised bank accounts. The whole colossal smash had been caused by the fact that IBM — IBM the great — had been run by scrupulously honest boobies, clowns, and putzers.

And do the words "Euro Disney" strike a cold memory? Day after day, week after week, month after month, we heard about the "restructuring of the finances", the £1.8 billion "rescue plan", the "lifeline", the "reprieve", the "urgent meeting in Paris", the "race to save Euro Disney", the "rash of lawsuits", the "plan next week to step up pressure on Walt Disney", the "growing concern among bankers associated with the refinancing of the share issue, with senior secured members claiming they are being asked to bear too much of the burden".

I dare say they are. At the last count, some 60 or more banks had been sighted walking across the quicksand without gumboots, not that gumboots would be any good; no doubt that list of banks includes our own dear Big Four, hastening, tongues out, to ensure that they won't see a penny of it ever again. Not surprising, if you hear Jon Ashworth in this paper:

Euro Disney's planners got it terribly wrong. In the year to end-September 1993, it was anticipated that 11.3 million visitors would generate revenues of more than FF6.14 billion and a pre-tax profit of about FF486 million. Instead, attendance was down 13 per cent at 9.8 per cent million, revenues were 21 per cent lower than expected and there was a pre-tax loss of FF5.34 billion. ... A London research house talks about... lower than anticipated guest attendance levels, guests who even when they do enter the park spend far less on food, beverage and gifts than forecast and a cost structure designed in anticipation of far higher revenue levels...

No; there were no gangs rifling the money in the turnstiles or altering the figures: all together, and fortissimo: "Euro Disney's planners got it terribly wrong", and when I ask "where have I heard those words before?" the only answer must be "practically everywhere, actually". (Not least in France, where M Jean-Yves Haberer has been causing much grief and losses to Credit Lyonnais, without pocketing so much as a bent centime.)

I am in the habit of jotting down a word or two against the catchline of a column that is shortly to be published, to remind myself to give it a final going-over. When I came to the one you are now reading, I simply wrote "Burns", and I did not think that the column concerned buttocks. The burns in question are the people who, when millions — very frequently billions — are at stake, innocently ensure, without any wrongdoing or even thoughts of wrongdoing, that whatever the enterprise in which they are involved they will, all innocently, knock the china off the sideboard with their elbows. No wonder that the Supplement to the OED defines bum as "A lazy and dissolute person; an habitual loafer or tramp".

I repeat; the cobbler sticks to his last. Perhaps he should use it for hitting our financial giants over the head.

Stop Press: One of Germany's most powerful and distinguished business figures, a Herr Schneider, has disappeared, and so has some £3.2 billion. I rest my case.

Research and revenge

A FRESH round of legal hostilities may soon break out between those veteran litigants, Count Nikolai Tolstoy and the former Tory party chairman Lord Aldington. For Tolstoy, who was ordered to pay Aldington £1.5 million libel damages by the High Court in 1989, has now issued a new writ against the ageing peer. It claims the original judgment was obtained by fraud because Aldington allegedly committed perjury.

The 1989 case centred on allegations by Tolstoy that in southern Austria in the mid-1940s Aldington, then the more lowly Brigadier Toby Low, handed over 70,000 Cossacks and anti-Tito Yugoslavs to Soviet forces.

Tolstoy's confidant, historian Michael Kettle, says: "He has done a lot of research in the Red Army archives which have only recently been opened. As a result, he has issued a writ for fraud."

Lord Aldington, 80 next month, says he cannot comment because of the writ. But his solicitor David Mackie is more forthcoming: "It is true that Count Tolstoy has brought proceedings. Lord Aldington is applying to strike out the proceedings on the grounds that they are frivolous, and/or

vexatious, and/or an abuse of the processes of the court."

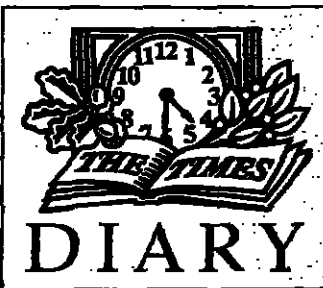
As for the original court ruling, Mackie grumbles: "Count Tolstoy has paid no part of the damages or the costs."

● Lord Longford, author, former Leader of the Lords, anti-pornography campaigner, friend of Myra Hindley... but poet? According to Peter Stanford's authorised biography, the outbreak of the First World War caused the nine-year-old Francis Pakenham to pen this: "On August the 4th/ Britain declared war! A few thought it nice! But most a great bore."

Local difficulty

THE BATTLE lines for Eastleigh are barely drawn, but the recriminations in nearby Christchurch — scene of last year's Tory humiliation — are coming along nicely. Members of the local Conservative Club apparently no longer want to accommodate the party's constituency officials in their Bargate premises.

The decision to ask party officials to vacate the first-floor offices has not gone unnoticed. "Clearly



the club no longer wants to be associated with the political side of the party," chuckles an aide for Diana Maddock, the Liberal Democrat victor in Christchurch.

Street fighter

D-DAY story lines are to be written into most soap operas, but the authenticity of Coronation Streets will be hard to match. Percy Sugden, the Street's cantankerous army veteran, will be returning to France for the first time since 1944 when he served as a cook to the Allied forces.

The anniversary has caused much excitement on the set, not least because Bill Waddington, the actor who plays Sugden, is a D-Day veteran himself and will be publishing his own memories of the event. Percy's War, Waddington's role in D-Day was marginal — more glamorous than Sugden's. He was a stand-up comedian who, rejoicing in the nickname "Witty Willy", performed as one of the Stars in Battledress.

Rather early for me

SEXUAL intercourse, it turns out, did not begin in 1963 after all. Apparently the members of one Oxford college started a good 20 years earlier. This shocking revelation is contained in a surprisingly thorough history of Corpus Christi, penned by the college's history don, Brian Harrison.

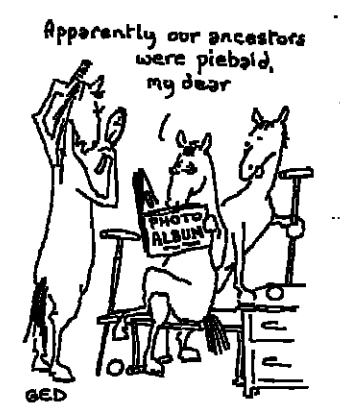
The deed, it seems, was first performed in college by one Graham Binns, who late one afternoon in 1943 found himself lounging by the open fire in his rooms (as one does in Oxford) clad only in a fetching pair of pyjamas. A knock on the door turned out to be a young Wren whom Binns had invited to tea but apparently forgotten about. A likely tale.

The heady mix of tea, toast and pyjamas proved too much for the young pair and events took their

natural course — until they were interrupted by the college chaplain, the Rev Theo Wetherall, on his rounds.

Binns, now a retired broadcasting executive, remembers the precedent-setting episode fondly, if a trifle vaguely. "She was a pretty thing, although sadly I have forgotten her name. She had these nice black stockings," he recalls. "There was a fine of course, but it was nothing enormous."

● The Prince of Wales returns to the polo ground next month, when he makes the first of two appearances at the Earl of Bathurst's estate to mark the centenary of the Cirencester Park polo club. The Prince will be sporting the club's



new colours, purple and white. An original programme unearthed from 1894 revealed that the black and white the club had happily played in since before the First World War was a mistake. Club chairman Stanislas Yassukovich offers an unlikely explanation: "It's probably because all our photographs have been in black and white in the past."

Support ran out

UNTIL this week the House of Commons was confident of fielding four members in the London Marathon on Sunday. Things, however, have not gone quite according to final training schedule. Alun Michael has the flu; John Austin-Walker fell down a manhole in Kampala and Gary Waller has a trapped sciatic nerve. This litany of athletic woes leaves Alan Simpson to contemplate the 26 miles alone.

The 45-year-old Labour MP for Nottingham South is gloomy: "When I entered, my reservations I had were brushed aside when I was told that quite a few members were entering. Now I discover they have all had more sense. One or two have assured me that they will be cheering me on from behind their television sets — but that's not quite the same thing."

Why the Zulus face defeat

History suggests a bloody outcome, says R.W. Johnson

Even as the international mediators sit idly in deadlock over the crisis in Natal, the question is whether they can possibly halt the runaway militarisation of that province: perhaps too much blood has already been shed for mere politics to work. Many thousands of people have, after all, already died since the conflict between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party first began.

Amid the Hobbesian realities of life in Natal, the question which stands out is who, in a contest of pure power, will win. If you listen to Chief Buthezi's admiring white supporters, enthused with a romantic passion for the very Zulu military prowess which once struck terror into their ancestors, there is no doubt of what is to come. "If you push the Zulus too far," they say, "watch out. Buthezi or the king will give the word and the *impis* will pour forth as of old. The ANC will simply be annihilated."

Such a vision is, however, simply out of date and has been since at least 1879, when Lord Chelmsford's riflemen dispatched a far larger number of Cawthra's men at the battle of Ulundi, breaking the power of the Zulu monarchy for generations. Today's talk of a protracted civil war between KwaZulu forces and a post-election ANC government rest upon a quite inflated notion of Inkatha's real ability to resist.

The vast bulk of IFP supporters are uneducated and middle-aged Zulu peasants, often with a strong Christian commitment and an unwillingness to believe that political violence is justified. The spear-waving *impis* of the IFP are real enough but they are a minority in their own camp. Their Matabele cousins in Zimbabwe enjoyed a similar warrior reputation but it did them little good against President Mugabe's brutal campaign of repression through his notorious Fifth Brigade.

KwaZulu itself packs little military punch. True, the KwaZulu police is a large and well-armed body, but its policing is notoriously ineffectual: it is doubtful that the KZP would make the grade as soldiers in any serious conflict. Precisely because of that, Chief Buthezi recently set up paramilitary self-defence units, the first 500 of whose recruits have just graduated. Their prowess is unknown.

Meanwhile, the South African Defence Force has already established a heavy presence in Natal, where its armoured cars and troop carriers are everywhere visible. Buthezi has indignantly condemned this "invasion" but he wholly lacks the means to resist it. At present the SADF gets its orders from President de Klerk and sees its role as one of neutral peacekeeping between the two sides. But already ANC voices are raised, demanding that the SADF smash the IFP and detain its militants by the thousand. The real question is what the SADF will do if the post-election ANC-led government orders it to act in such a brutally partisan fashion. The generals may be tempted to continue to look for a lead from de Klerk or even from General Constand Viljoen, leader of the white right, but their long-term professional interest will surely be to establish their indispensability to their new political masters.

Buthezi's dislike of the SADF, however, pales in comparison with his utter rejection of the newly formed National Peace-Keeping Force (NPKF), which blends SADF units with those drawn from the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), and the various *shotop* armies of the pro-ANC homelands. Not surprisingly, Buthezi sees the NPKF as simply an ANC army. The news that 1,000 NPKF soldiers are to be dispatched to Durban's biggest township, Umhlati, is deeply ominous not only because the NPKF's partisan image and notorious disciplinary problems make it a dubious candidate for the ultra-sensitive task of township policing, but because it introduces a further and volatile military element into the already overheated atmosphere of Natal politics.

Meanwhile the MK Commissar, Andrew Masondo, has announced that a further 16,000 MK soldiers are to be integrated into the new army. Mr Masondo has been repeatedly branded as a torturer of his own men, even by the ANC's own investigative commissions. The fact that he clearly still enjoys authority within MK is a deeply chilling fact in the eyes of the ANC's opponents.

The post-election situation in Natal seems certain to be a violent mess, but barring a major rebellion by the SADF against the new government, any KwaZulu attempt at military resistance seems doomed. If the current cacatous rhythm of political killing goes on — and 205 people have died even since the emergency began — the chances of a "pacification" campaign along Zimbabwean lines will surely grow. But while the forces of Zulu traditionalism can be crushed quite easily in the short term, this does not mean they will necessarily be defeated in the longer term. One must remember how in Uganda, the forces of Milton Obote's radical African nationalism easily vanquished the Kabaka, the traditional King of Buganda. But as Obote's then Idi Amin's regimes failed, Buganda pined and more for its lost ruler. Today Obote and Amin both live in exiled disgrace, while once more Buganda is ruled by a Kabaka. It is a lesson which should be pondered by anyone who believes that an institution as deeply rooted as the Zulu monarchy and its traditional aristocracy can be easily disposed of by a whiff of grapeshot.



DEATH OVER IRAQ

The victims of this tragic accident died in a humanitarian cause

President Saddam Hussein's cruel and lawless regime yesterday claimed the lives of 26 more Allied servicemen. The direct cause of their deaths, in the shooting down over northern Iraq of two US helicopters carrying British, French, American and Turkish officers, was that most embarrassing and terrible of military accidents known as friendly fire. American aircraft monitoring the "no-fly" zone north of the 36th parallel mistakenly took the two Black Hawks for the Hinds used by the Iraqi military. This was an accident that should not have happened if established military procedures had been properly followed, and the Pentagon's investigation must be swift and thorough.

But Saddam's brutality towards his own people is the reason for the presence in Iraq of the officers, and for the military surveillance operation itself. They were on a mission to liaise with Kurdish leaders and United Nations officials on ways to counter the increased threat from Baghdad to the aptly named Operation Provide Comfort. This humanitarian rescue mission was launched, at John Major's instigation, in April 1991 when Saddam's troops drove nearly two million Iraqi Kurds to what would otherwise have been death from exposure and starvation in the mountains to which they had been forced to flee. Three years after Iraq was chased out of Kuwait, Saddam still poses so direct a menace to Iraq's Kurdish citizens that they remain heavily dependent on UN assistance, within a "safe haven" which has constantly to be monitored by a multinational taskforce.

Saddam has subjected this wholly admirable humanitarian operation to constant and brutal harassment. He has imposed an economic blockade against the north far more savage than the UN sanctions against which he inveighs. Iraqi agents constantly attempt to project into the safe haven the systematic state terror condemned by the UN's special rapporteur on human rights in the rest of Iraq as "crimes against humanity". UN guards protect relief workers, journalists and human rights monitors from

ambushes, car-bombs and other forms of armed harassment. Since the beginning of March alone, eight UN guards have been murdered or wounded by Iraqi agents, in an escalation of attacks which supports the US State Department's allegation that Saddam has put a bounty of up to £6,000 on the heads of UN personnel and other foreigners.

The tension has increased since mid-March, when Saddam issued unspecified threats that Iraq would not "stand with its hands tied" and his key aides vowed, rather more specifically, to "return the beloved north to the motherland". Since then, the three army corps permanently stationed just below the 36th parallel have been reinforced by the deployment of three divisions of crack Republican Guards to join two already there. The Allied military force based at Incirlik in Turkey, which polices the no-fly zone imposed in August 1992, has been on heightened alert against a repetition of last year's Iraqi attacks on Allied aircraft. Saddam has been emboldened by the emergence of divisions within the UN Security Council over sanctions. Previous decisions to maintain them have been routine, but last month's was reached only after three days of intense discussion, with Britain and America resisting French, Russian and Chinese pressure to ease them. Firmness remains vital. Sanctions must not be relaxed until Iraq is in total compliance with all relevant UN resolutions. The UN needs at least a year to be sure that Iraq cannot manufacture prohibited weaponry and is finally co-operating fully with the UN's systematic long-term monitoring programme to prevent future cheating; but that is not the only issue. Saddam has yet to account for hundreds of Kuwaitis and other hostages taken during the Gulf War. Above all, in defiance of the UN ceasefire resolution and international law, he has renewed his claim to Kuwait. For all these reasons, his criminal regime remains as clear a threat to international peace as it is to the wellbeing of Iraq's terribly persecuted people. There is no case for letting vigilance slip.

CAPITAL CHOICE

Londoners want to look beyond their boroughs

It is not unusual for capital cities to be seen as threats to national governments. When Australia, the United States and Brazil chose new and obscure sites for their capitals, it was to emphasise that no municipality should dominate the state. In Germany, the move from cosy Bonn to big Berlin has become a bitter subject of political debate. In France, national politicians have managed to coexist with Paris, but often by intertwining their roles: Jacques Chirac has been Mayor of his capital city since 1977 and held the job even while he was Prime Minister. In Britain the relationship between central government and London, always tense, now resembles one between victor and vanquished: to the detriment of what is still one of the greatest cities in Europe.

In three weeks' time, every Londoner will have the chance to vote in the local government elections. Note, however, will be able to vote for representation in the city to which they belong. Most do not see themselves primarily as Islingtonians, Brentishers or Harrovians: they are Londoners. They may live in one borough, but the chances are that they work in another and shop in a third. Yet the leaflets seeking support for Conservative local council candidates seem to ignore their prime concerns: transport, planning, the environment, and any sense of how London, as a capital city, ought to be developing.

Four out of five Londoners want the city to regain its elected strategic authority. At the launch of its manifesto for the London elections yesterday, Labour was wise to concentrate on this. The Tories are trying to keep the campaign local, but citywide issues cannot be kept down. John Gummer, Minister for London, could not have been more patronising when he said recently that there had been "far too much silly talk" about such a body, to which he was "totally

and utterly opposed". Alone among Western capital cities, London has no representative body to speak for it in Whitehall and abroad, no accountable central authority for planning or transport or the environment. And it shows. London was easily beaten by Manchester as the English choice for the Commonwealth Games because, the judges said, London lacked a strategic authority. The capital could not even bid for the Olympics, let alone win them, because it has no mechanism for doing so. In exasperation at the lack of citywide planning, 150 businesses recently set up a group called London First to do some of the work a strategic authority should be doing; it has just launched an inward investment initiative to sell London as the best city for overseas companies.

The Government acknowledges that London cannot simply be governed by its boroughs together with a residuary body. Mr Gummer now chairs a Cabinet sub-committee on the capital, whose agenda and minutes are of course secret. Last November he created a tier of civil servants to supervise London, headed by an official of deputy secretary grade. The concession of this principle makes the case for democratic accountability all the greater.

Margaret Thatcher had to face a GLC dominated by the municipal hard left. Hence her traditional response on behalf of the fearful state. But London is not fated to be in permanent left-wing opposition to a Conservative Government. Of all Britain's cities, it is one of the most politically marginal. As long as the outer boroughs are included, control of any new strategic authority ought to swing regularly between the two main parties. Such a body need not be as huge and bureaucratic as the old GLC. But a replacement must be created — preferably with an elected mayor at its head.

LIFE AFTER FORTY-SIX

Praise for the progress of England's cricketers

After Michael Atherton's bedraggled team had been ambushed by the West Indies at Port of Spain last month, he was firmly stuck in that "castle called Doubting Castle, the owner whereof was Giant Despair". And there he remained, after a drubbing by a lowly Board President's XI in the next match in Grenada. That island may have witnessed one of Ronald Reagan's finest hours, but not the England captain's.

His mercurial pilgrims have since then made unanticipated progress. Not only did they score more than 46 in both innings of the recently concluded Test match at Bridgetown, they won it as well. Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this! It was the first time since 1935 that a visiting side has had the cheek to beat the West Indies at the Kensington Oval. And winning in Barbados, where the crime rate is low and the churches are full, is like giving the lion a short-back-and-sides in its own den. No land — not even Yorkshire — has produced as many cricketers of quality. On no other ground has the West Indies team strutted as majestically.

Despair — a not ignoble emotion — is said

to it. It certainly did for England. The very players who crumpled in abject submission the last time, performed pulls, hooks, cuts, drives and other manly things. England, for once, sold their wickets dearly; what is more, they took those of their opponents cheaply. Angus Fraser, a bowler whose methods are more likely to be described as bucolic than ballistic, bowled like Alec Bedser. And there was a priceless contribution from the chain-smoking cockney, Philip Tufnell. He may be as neurotic as a schoolgirl with acne, but he ought never to be left out of the side.

England's Colossus, however, was Alec Stewart, who proved that Ambrose and his fellow assassins are vulnerable mortals. He scored a century in each innings, a feat never performed before by an Englishman against the West Indies. It should silence those mean-minded critics who have been swift to dismiss him as a Roundhead.

The Barbados Test was fairly won, and nothing can seem foul to those who win. But it must not be forgotten that the series is lost. England, as the cliché goes, are playing only for pride for the rest of the campaign. That, however, is no bad thing. For pride is a

Advice to Tories on pay and power

From Mr Marc Cranfield-Adams

Sir, I believe the Archbishop of Canterbury was right to point out that there is a growing gulf between rich and poor in Britain today (report, April 4). The Government's own figures bear this out.

Between 1980-81 and 1991-92 the annual average income of the 12,000 people in the top 1 per cent of Welsh taxpayers rose by £42,399 while the bottom 50 per cent of taxpayers, numbering 620,000 people, gained an average of just £3,311.

The average income earned by Welsh taxpayers now stands at £12,339, compared with £14,627 for the United Kingdom as a whole. The divide not only exists between the haves and have-nots but also regionally.

The Prime Minister, for whom I worked as a minor campaign aide in the last general election, is not responsible for the divisions that exist in the country today. However, I had hoped that his election would see a reversal in the policies pursued by his predecessor.

I am ashamed that the Conservative Party has done so very little to break down these divisions, to bring the country closer together so that it can truly be a nation at ease with itself.

Yours sincerely,
MARC CRANFIELD-ADAMS,
27 Plymouth Road,
Penarth, South Glamorgan.
April 12.

From Mr Brian Tonks

Sir, If the Conservative Party decides on a leadership election, the importance of who is chosen cannot be overstated. The Conservative Party has a task to perform which is vital for the nation. He must lead the Tory party into the opposition benches.

Yours sincerely,
B. TONKS,
76 Broadway North,
Walsall, West Midlands.
April 4.

True blues

From Councillor D. G. G. Kirby

Sir, Yes, I am disgusted of Tunbridge Wells! Your article today by Andrew Pierce on the political future of our borough has been very selective with the facts. There is no mention of last week's by-election result — a win for the Conservatives. The Conservative councillors have a lot to be proud of in this blue heartland of Kent — lower borough council-tax levy, debt-free, and a positive array of service improvements and expansions.

Nationally, of course, we support John Major and our membership of the European Union — but that is not what May 5 is about.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KIRBY (Leader,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council),
Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
April 13.

Arts sponsorship

From Mr David Christopher Blair

Sir, You reported recently (Arts, April 2) that Drumbe is to invest the princely sum of £750,000 in the Edinburgh Film Festival over the next three years.

More power to them, but isn't it time that arts administrators stopped kowtowing to industrialists and selling their companies short for a few free lunches?

The organisers of the Edinburgh Festival may be impressed by £750,000 but Drumbe will have established for themselves worldwide exposure for every event in all media, numerous asides in previews, reviews and coverage of the festival and, most valuable of all, word-of-mouth promotion. How much would a similar campaign have cost through an advertising agency and, in consideration of this, who is sponsoring whom?

The arts industry must rid itself of the measly-minded fundraisers and "marketing" executives, whose prime function is to massage the egos of businessmen, and start charging realistic prices for the very valuable off-spin services they have to offer in support of their own product.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CHRISTOPHER BLAIR,
PO Box 8, Cheltenham GL52 2YD.
April 12.

Tidal power

From Mr H. Ifon I. Jones

Sir, You report (April 7) that "Britain's first electricity-generating tidal barrage could be on the river Forth at Kincaidine". It would appear that your correspondent is unaware of Swansea City Council's decision to install a Kaplan turbine in the recently completed river Tawe barrage at Swansea.

The output of the turbine, 90kw per hour, is very modest when compared with the 34-megawatt barrage proposed for the Forth but nevertheless the turbine has been installed and will be generating long before the Forth project is under way.

Yours faithfully,
H. IFON I. JONES
(City Engineer),
Swansea City Council,
The Guildhall, Swansea.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Risks and ethics of the Down's test

From Professor Eric J. Thomas

Sir, The excellent article by Dr Kieran Sweeney on the hidden costs of screen testing for Down's syndrome (Body and Mind, April 5) said little about the moral dimension of the dilemma posed by this practice. There appears to have been only limited debate as to whether it is appropriate for a civilised society to create a programme which aims to remove a sub-population who suffer from such disorders.

We have no evidence that the experience of life by Down's children is any more negative than that of a healthy individual. It seems, therefore, that they may be being removed from society because they constitute either an emotional or financial inconvenience; and we may decide that such a decision is acceptable since similar pragmatism occurs over many terminations of pregnancy.

However, a screening programme differs from an individual decision to terminate a pregnancy in one important respect: i.e. the inevitable loss of healthy babies as a result of the increasing use of amniocentesis. One in a hundred couples with a healthy baby identified to be at risk, at a level arbitrarily chosen by doctors, will lose that pregnancy; something which would not have happened if there had been no screening programme.

I have calculated that the introduction of a screening programme in Southampton would lead to the extra identification of between three and five Down's babies per year but the loss of two or three not suffering from the syndrome.

If we must expect some couples to lose their healthy babies so that there should be fewer Down's babies, then the decision as to whether this is appropriate becomes a moral one, passing out of the hands of the medical profession and into the public domain.

As genetic technologies improve the number of these dilemmas will increase. I have grave anxieties that a precedent is being set over screening for Down's without adequate understanding or debate of the implications.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC THOMAS,
Princess Anne Hospital,
Coxford Road,
Southampton, Hampshire.

From Dr Hilary Harris

Sir, Dr Sweeney's article does not make clear that for the same number

of amniocenteses, previously available only for mothers aged over 35, serum screening will detect three times as many cases of Down's syndrome.

Most women over 35 looking for ante-natal care are aware of "a risk". Serum screening raises anxieties in younger women who may have had no prior knowledge of this risk. Very soon new serum markers will be able to detect Down's syndrome within the first few weeks of pregnancy, so that late termination of pregnancy may be avoided, and there are already opportunities to detect cystic fibrosis in early pregnancy.

This will place extra responsibility on general practitioners to provide accurate information and counselling about ante-natal tests.

How much better for this to take place within the familiar surgery setting and by the doctor who has looked after the mother and her family for a number of years.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY HARRIS,
Brooklands Medical Practice,
594 Altrincham Road, Manchester 23.
April 12.

From Mrs Heather Hughes

Sir, Two of our three children have Down's syndrome, and although on two occasions I refused to have an amniocentesis, I was concerned by the pressure put on me to do so. It seems to me that prospective parents are being put through a great deal of unnecessary worry, when in fact people with Down's syndrome can bring so much happiness to a family.

I was horrified to read in Dr Sweeney's article about the estimated cost of supporting a Down's child. There is no reason why such a person should not lead a fulfilled life and in fact make a great contribution to the lives of others. What sort of a society are we coming to when their right to life might be judged on a scale of costs?

Continuous pressure to take the various available tests raises the fear of handicap. One of the major problems we have found in bringing up our children has been coping with such fear and the prejudices which it increases.

Yours faithfully,
HEATHER HUGHES,
55 Seven Star Road,
Solihull, West Midlands.
April 5.

Teachers' grievances

From Mr James Tooley

Sir, I disagree with Janet Daley's comments on teachers (April 7). Of course there are some daft "left-wingers" and others who condemn instruction, or imparting knowledge, or any form of testing. But many non-extreme teachers have legitimate grievances against a Government which has overstepped the mark as far as curriculum and assessment are concerned.

The cumbersome tests were that way because of the predilections of an elite of progressive educationalists. But then these tests were imposed upon the whole teaching profession: what was the justification for the Government doing that? Mrs Daley points out that Sir Ron Dearing has slumped down testing; he has also slumped down the curriculum, which means another time-consuming bureaucratic exercise for teachers in adapting their school curricula yet again to government instructions.

But what business of government's was it to be involved in such a prescriptive cumbersome national curriculum in the first place? It may well have been because of the progressive elite but that is no excuse. Normally I admire Mrs Daley's liberalism: this

time I feel she has too hastily jumped on a union-bashing bandwagon.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES TOOLEY,
(Executive Officer, Philosophy of Education Society Great Britain),
290 Spring Road, Southampton.

From Mrs Jean Pailing

Sir, I take it that Peter Millar ("Put class back into the classroom", April 6) believes that the intellectual level of the people is at an all-time low. If so, please will he not blame the teachers. Many of us aim ceaselessly to promote "intellectual impeccability" in all types of school and to adapt our teaching methods to the needs of children who have a range of talents. Give us children from stable backgrounds where television is regulated, where books and conversation are valued, where good manners are practised and where inappropriate experience of the adult world is kept at bay and then we can start to teach effectively as Peter Millar would like.

But this is not the real world. As it is, we are fighting a losing battle for control rather than winning a battle for enlightenment.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN PAILING,
9 Adcock Walk, Orpington, Kent.

In praise of the CSA

From Mr Benet Steinberg

Sir, The Campaign Against the Child Support Agency asks for "justice" and is supported by the Labour Party (report, April 6). The children of these "absent parents" have only received the cold justice of state charity to date. Surely the moral underpinning of the CSA is the thesis that one cannot divorce oneself from one's responsibilities to those incapable of entering a contractual relationship. The State has a duty to protect children who are in such a position and, being unable to enforce blood ties, is only capable of enforcing a fiscal relationship.

In enforcing responsibility in this way the State could be said to be enforcing a morality which, although severely attenuated over the past years, is still the bedrock of the vast majority of the population.

Much of the future seems related to the shock of such parents upon discovering that child-rearing is very expensive and that the rest of the population is no longer prepared to subsidise their new lifestyles.

As a parent of a two-year-old I can only say that the bulk of the many parents with whom I come into contact wish the CSA every success.

Yours faithfully,
BENET STEINBERG,
5 Kington Road, Forest Gate, E7.
April 6.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by post to 071-782 5000.

Strange events at railway museum

From Mr David Morgan and others

Sir, As representatives of the private sector of the railway heritage industry and the editors of the leading specialist magazines in this field, we are writing to express our concern at recent developments at the National Railway Museum in York, which is part of the National Museum of Science and Industry, whose director is Sir Neil Cossons.

Following an extraordinary attack on the volunteer preservation movement in Britain at an international symposium last October, Dr Cossons (as he was then) turned his attention to the museum staff by demanding large-scale redundancies — accompanied, it has to be said, by even larger redundancies at the Science Museum itself (report, October 16, 1993).

What has accompanied our joint concern has been the precipitate departure from the National Railway Museum of its Head, Andrew Dow, who was appointed to that position little over two years ago. During that time, he has earned the respect and appreciation of his colleagues, both inside and outside the museum world, and indeed has proved a worthy successor to Dr John Cooley, who held the post before him.

In particular, he has sharpened up the businesslike approach of the museum, improved the management of the assets within his control and has heightened public awareness of the archival material and research facilities available at the museum. Indeed we have to ask whether the museum can afford to lose a man of Mr Dow's calibre at this time.

We are very concerned for the future of the National Railway Museum and its continued development. In particular, we fear that the proposals for resiting the Royal Train Shed from Wolverton to York, kindly offered by British Rail, to provide accommodation for some of the museum's historic collection, will be jeopardised.

The circumstances of Mr Dow's departure are highly unusual but no explanation has been offered by either Sir Neil or Mr Dow. We believe that the public are entitled to a full explanation of the reasons behind Mr Dow's departure.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MORGAN
(Chairman, Association of Railway Preservation Societies),
IAN ALLAN
(Chairman, Association of Independent Railways),
RICHARD BEAN
(Editor, *Steam Railway News*),
MURRAY BROWN
(Editor, *RAIL*),
NIGEL HARRIS
(Editor, *Steam Railway*),
HANDEL KARDAS
(Editor, *Railway World*),
PETER KELLY
(Editor, *Railway Magazine*),
CHRIS LEIGH
(Editor, *Steam World*),
c/o 7 Cheyne Place, SW3.
April 11.

Professor of U

From Mr Henry Harvey

Sir, No, Miss Hinde (letter, April 11), not only was it not Jilly Cooper who gave us "U and non-U"; it wasn't Nancy Mitford, either. The expression was invented by Professor Alan S. C. Ross in a linguistic study of English society in the Finnish journal *Nuorisluokan tutkimus*, as Nancy Mitford acknowledged.

Yours,
HENRY HARVEY,
Top Cottage (West), Willesey,
Nr Broadway, Worcestershire.

Taking a chance

From Mr S. Jenkins

Sir, I have read with care your front-page lead today, "Lloyd's names win fight for compensation".

Due to my ignorance of the horse racing world and my reliance on advice from a man I met in the pub last Saturday morning, do you consider it likely that I could go to the courts to recover the 50p each-way loss I incurred on the Grand National — or would I stand more of a chance if I had lost £50k?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON JENKINS,
16 Llanannor Drive, Anchor Court,
Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff 1.
April 14.

Negative values

From Mr Randle Cooke

Sir, Professional readers of C.V.s (letters, April 7, 11) like something out of the ordinary and the trick is to make us smile.

"Interests" provide this opportunity: all too often one reads, "reading, walking, and DIY". The lady who wrote "playing the bassoon at informal gatherings" had the message. Whether she played it or not was immaterial; she got full marks for wit and, as it turned out, the job!

Yours faithfully,
RANDLE COOKE (Chairman),
Randle Cooke and Associates
(international recruitment consultants),
London House,
53-54 Hammarket, SW1.

مكتبة

OBITUARIES

CLYDE FITZER

Herbert Clyde Fitzer, CB, OBE, Director of Engineering (Ships) in the Admiralty, 1969-71, and Head of the Royal Naval Engineering Service, 1970-71, died on March 20 aged 83. He was born on November 3, 1910.

CLYDE FITZER rose from being a dockyard apprentice to play a significant role in the development of Britain's nuclear-powered submarines. He first became involved in submarine design six years ago when, as a talented young electrical engineer, he was drafted to the Admiralty ships department at Bath. In the 1930s he worked particularly on the main power and propulsion systems of the highly successful Porpoise and Oberon classes (not to be confused with the identically named classes of the 1960s, which represented the summit of conventional submarine design in the Royal Navy, before nuclear power transformed the submarine concept out of all recognition). Nevertheless, with their requirement for high voltages and compactness the pre-war "P" and "O" boats broke new ground in their day and saw service in the Second World War until the more powerful "T" class began to come off the launching slips in substantial numbers.

In 1950 Fitzer was promoted superintendent electrical engineer for submarine design, visiting the United States during the development of the *Dreadnought*, the Royal Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine. He was also to be a key figure in helping to



produce the *Valiant* class of hunter-killers, the first entirely home-grown British nuclear submarines. Then in 1963, following the Nassau agreement between President Kennedy and Harold Macmillan, he joined the *Polaris* team and played an important part in incorporating the American underwater-launched ballistic missile systems into the four British-built submarines. In terms of speed and efficiency, the production of the country's first beneath-the-ocean nuclear deterrent force was arguably the most impressive postwar equipment programme, coming in well within budget and on time — not a

feature of many of the country's weapons programmes.

Despite his expertise and reputation, Fitzer nearly abandoned it all to become a clergyman. Sadly for him, but fortunately perhaps for the Royal Navy, he failed a medical after applying for ordination — on account of steadily progressing rheumatoid arthritis.

So he stayed with the Admiralty in Bath, where the Navy held him in such high regard that it helped him to carry on despite his illness, until he rose to the top of the tree in his profession. On leaving the *Polaris* team in 1966 he was made deputy director electrical engineering, then two years later Director of Engineering (Ships). In 1970 he also acquired an additional hat as the head of the Royal Naval Engineering Service — which empowered him to oversee training and professional standards. He retired from both jobs in 1971 at the age of 60.

The son of a sailor who served with the Royal Navy in the First World War, Clyde Fitzer (he was also known as Herbert within the Admiralty) was born in Portsmouth where he went to the Royal Dockyard School, a highly technical training school for dockyard apprentices. There he won all the three main prizes to emerge top of all the country's dockyard schools.

His achievements secured him a coveted place at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, where he took an external London University degree with first-class honours as well as his professional certificate of engineering. He then joined the Admiralty as an

assistant electrical engineer. After spending a statutory year at sea as a sub-lieutenant, serving in the battleship *Barham* at one stage, he was based for a time at Sheerness dockyard before moving to Bath.

It was while he was studying at Greenwich that Fitzer suffered an accident which was to have lasting consequences. While descending from the upper reaches of the Albert Hall after listening to a performance of *The Messiah*, a fellow member of the audience missed his step and crashed down the stairs on top of him, dislocating Fitzer's shoulder. He never seemed fully to recover from the injury and in recent years, badly crippled by arthritis, was compelled to move around in a wheelchair.

Clyde Fitzer, however, never lost his Christian faith. After his dream of ordination had been shattered, he became a licensed lay reader in the Bath and Wells diocese and remained a devout Anglican all his life. In 1956 he wrote a children's pageant called *Christian Flarepath* which, after being performed in his own parish, was published and used by other churches throughout Britain.

A humble, unassuming man, unlike some other pioneers of the nuclear Navy, he never complained. On the other hand, he knew what he wanted and had an inner confidence which sustained him. None questioned his complete mastery of his subject.

Clyde Fitzer is survived by Queenie, his wife of 56 years whom he met through his church in Portsmouth, and by their daughter.

ARCHIE NEWMAN

Archie Newman, director of public affairs and sponsorship at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, 1966-85, died of viral encephalitis on April 6 aged 62. He was born on April 10, 1931.



ARCHIE NEWMAN helped to define corporate sponsorship and public relations in the arts, and in particular in classical music, as we have come to know it in Britain today. Long before rival British orchestras and arts organisations began seriously to court captains of industry for patronage, Newman, with his dominating personality and persuasive enthusiasm, was encouraging them to sponsor the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

He also organised numerous charity, gala and royal concerts, including an appearance by Luciano Pavarotti in 1982, and although he formally parted company with the orchestra in 1986 he retained strong links with it as an honorary life member.

Archie Newman was educated at Lymington Grammar School, where he was remembered for his speed, both on the sports field and in the classroom — and the University of London. After National Service based at Aldershot he joined the press and publications department of London Transport and subsequently worked in similar posts with British Transport Advertising, Associated Television, the Electricity Council, the London Fire Brigade and the Greater London Council.

But it was for his twenty years, from 1966 to 1985, as head of public affairs and sponsorship of the RPO that Newman will be best remembered. Like all British orchestras, the RPO had been struggling to maintain the high artistic standards of an international orchestra within the constraints of a tight budget.

It was Newman's skills as a communicator — he had the ability to recollect a person's name, years after having met them — that enabled him to collect such heavyweights as Kodak, Mars, NatWest and IBM, thus laying the foundations for much of the orchestra's success during the 1970s and 1980s. He had, too, an eye for detail: it was he who began the practice of delivering red roses to the RPO's patron, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, five minutes after midnight on her birthday.

For the last eight years Newman built up his own organisation, Archie Newman Communications, which had strong links with the charity world. One of his last achievements was the successful appeal for Emmanuel College, Cambridge, with Lord St John of Fawley, which raised some £5 million during the last year. He also served until his death

as a member of the Government's Art and Heritage Committee.

A great lover of musical recollections, Newman co-wrote *Beecham Stories* (1972) with Harold Adkins, a work that was partly responsible for propagating many of the true legends surrounding the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham. Recently he began writing a book with the working title of *Family Tales*, sketching family life after the century.

In his rare moments away from the office, Newman was a devoted family man and a keen amateur photographer who loved the outdoors. He liked nothing better than driving his family across the Sussex Downs in their faithful old Jaguar, exploring historic houses and parks, or sitting by the beach at Goring.

His illness was short and he is survived by his wife, Rita, whom he married in 1958, and their son and daughter.

VIKTOR AFANASYEV

Viktor Afanasyev, editor-in-chief of *Pravda* from 1976 to 1989, died on April 10 aged 71. He was born on November 18, 1922.

AFTER 13 years as the most powerful journalist in the Soviet Union, Viktor Afanasyev was, on October 19, 1989, summarily removed from his post as editor-in-chief of *Pravda*. It was an indication of President Gorbachev's frustration with the Procurator's stewardship of the Communist Party's mouthpiece.

Under the ultra-conservative Afanasyev, ideologically a child of the Brezhnev era, *Pravda* had for some years been sounding increasingly out of touch with Gorbachev's policies of glasnost and perestroika. His continued authoritarianism had made the paper seem an irrelevance to the process of reform that was sweeping the Soviet Union, and its circulation had fallen drastically from the peak of well over ten million copies daily that it had sustained under his editorship in the 1970s.

Viktor Afanasyev was born at Akdamysk in the Tatar Autonomous Republic but educated at the Pedagogical Institute in the Siberian industrial city of Chita which lies at the southern end of the Yablonovy Mountains, to the east of Lake Baikal. In 1940 he was sent to Moscow where he became head of the department of scientific socialism at the Academy of Social Sciences.

With these impeccable ideological credentials he was a natural candidate for a senior post on the central committee propaganda organ, *Pravda*, and in 1968 Leonid Brezhnev, by then Soviet President, made sure he was appointed



director of the Chelyabinsk Pedagogical Institute. Next, in 1969, he was sent to Moscow where he became head of the department of scientific socialism at the Academy of Social Sciences.

With these impeccable ideological credentials he was a natural candidate for a senior post on the central committee propaganda organ, *Pravda*, and in 1968 Leonid Brezhnev, by then Soviet President, made sure he was appointed

to a deputy editorship on the paper. With the short-lived quasi-liberal experiment of the Khrushchev era thoroughly dead and buried, Afanasyev was in his element. In 1974 he moved to *Kommunist* as editor-in-chief of the monthly journal before returning, in 1976, as editor-in-chief of *Pravda*. In that year he also became a member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party.

Under Brezhnev and his

successors Chernenko and Andropov, Afanasyev, *Pravda* prospered. Circulation soared, peaking briefly to 13 million, and the host of associated magazines and books which issued from the state publishing house made Afanasyev the most powerful single instrument of propaganda in the Soviet Union. In this climate Afanasyev and his senior staff enjoyed lifestyles and privileges — Moscow apartments, country dachas,

big cars and special shops — like those of the party bosses.

With the advent of Gorbachev this fair prospect altered. Glasnost — "openness" — was the very last thing to which any editor of *Pravda* —

"Truth" for the Communist sort) — had ever dreamt of having to address himself. Afanasyev did his best. Half-hearted cacklings about the achievements of Gorbachev's predecessors did appear from time to time. But he was much more at home publishing articles by conservative academics. It was impossible for him to change the habits and convictions of a lifetime. "To dig around in the dirty linen of our history leads people away from the solution of our problems," was Afanasyev's defence.

He came under attack from reform-minded members of the leadership at a special party conference of June 1988 at which he was singled out as one of the beneficiaries of the Brezhnev regime who would have to go, if reform was to succeed. *Pravda*'s readers were, anyway, deserting it in droves. Of the registered figure of 9.5 million subscribers it supposedly had in January 1989 it was estimated that little more than a third had actually paid up, even at the giveaway price of four kopeks (then 4p) a copy.

But the immediate cause of Afanasyev's removal may have been the republication of an article in an Italian newspaper which had criticised the behaviour of Boris Yeltsin while on a visit to the United States. The *Pravda* headline: "Drunkenly embracing capitalists" was too much even for Gorbachev. Though no friend of Yeltsin, he came under immense pressure from those who held that the article was a blatant smear on Yeltsin and demeaned the Soviet Union in the eyes of the world.

That evening the audience for the main television news bulletin heard that Ivan Frolov was the new editor of *Pravda* and that the Politburo had granted the request of Viktor Afanasyev to be removed from the post in connection with his transfer to scientific work. He went to the Soviet Academy of Sciences where he was given the meaningless post of executive academic secretary in the department of philosophy and law. It was the end of a 70-year-long era in Soviet journalism.

He leaves his widow, son and daughter.

JOHN MACARTNEY

John Macartney, CBE, former Secretary for Local Government, Sabah, Malaysia, died in Durham on March 11 aged 80. He was born on June 20, 1913.

JOHN MACARTNEY was one of the last links between the Chartered Company administration of North Borneo, in an era redolent of early mercantile activity in the East Indies, and the creation of modern Malaysia. His thirty-year career began in the romantically archaic and benevolent paternalism of the company administration of the pre-war years, when the price of rubber was the main consideration. He was to see this ethos shattered by the Japanese onslaught and, after a period of internment, participated in the postwar rebuilding process which involved the establishment, first, of a Crown Colony and then led to the emergence of Sabah as a state within the Malaysian federation in 1963.

John Hance Macartney was born in Walthamstow, east London, and educated at Sir George Monoux Grammar School and St Peter's Hall, Oxford. In 1936 he joined the small cadre of British North Borneo Chartered Company administrators and learnt the skills of district work in the West Coast Residency of North Borneo. In his leisure hours he became secretary of the Jesselton Turf Club whose delightfully informal meetings were a feature of social life in the pre-war years and did much to contribute to harmonious relations between the many races of the territory. This idyllic existence under the benevolent administration of the British North Borneo Company was rudely ended in January 1942 when the Japa-

nese landed at Jesselton and began taking over the whole territory.

The company ordered its officials to stay at their posts, reasoning that they might help to provide some measure of protection for the local populace by calming fears and giving advice in a situation of general turmoil. There was no possibility of resisting the invaders since there were no troops and the small North Borneo Constabulary was equipped only for internal



security and anti-piracy duties.

Macartney therefore stayed on as district officer. Tenon, until May 1942, when he was ordered to report for internment. Shipped to Sarawak with his fellow officers, he alleviated the boredom of the next three years by learning Chinese. As internecine camp quartermaster he was known for the skill with which he managed to persuade the Japanese quartermaster to provide extra victuals to eke out the unsavoury camp fodder.

After the Japanese surrender Macartney returned to North Borneo following a period of recuperation in England. The first major task was rebuilding after the devastation caused by Japanese air attacks — and, in their turn, by the Allied ones. The British North Borneo Company felt quite unable to shoulder the burden of this, or of engineering a return to the pre-war status quo and, in 1946, surrendered its charter. The Crown Colony of North Borneo.

Macartney became Commissioner of Labour and Immigration, a job in which his recently learnt Chinese stood him in good stead. He modernised obsolete prewar labour legislation and took action against rogue employers who tried to abuse the laws.

As Secretary for Local Government from 1960 he set on foot an ambitious programme for the achievement of universal primary education, which was achieved not long after he left. He also instituted local government elections, a major step forward for a territory which was soon to achieve independence, which it did as the state of Sabah, within the Malaysian federation, in 1963. Macartney's final post, held in the newly independent state, was that of chairman of the Public Service Commission.

Returning to Britain in 1960, he became bursar and lecturer in oriental studies at Crag College, Durham. In final retirement, he settled down in Durham, but he kept in touch with South-East Asia, sometimes conducting tours of selected groups of travellers there.

He is survived by his wife Pam, a former medical officer in Malaysia, and by their son and daughter.

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Bill McMurray, chief executive of Cortworth, on a visit to Newage Transmissions in Coventry bought from Williams Holdings

Keeping in close touch

Management buyouts and their variants are becoming more complex. At one time, key managers would muster sufficient financial backing to bid for a part of a business that had become essentially peripheral and the parent company would gracefully pass on the inheritance for an agreed sum. That was the simple buyout. Increasingly, the business relationship which once ended with the completion of the buyout deal is now entering a new phase. Its main hallmark is the way the one-time parent still retains a financial stake in the fledgling now flying off.

Buyouts are entering a new phase.
Derek Harris looks at the change

He felt more could be produced for Williams's shareholders. This was where NatWest Ventures, National Westminster Bank's venture capital arm, scored.

A £40-million deal was struck which gave Williams Holdings a substantial stake in the future of the new company, Cortworth. Williams Holdings put in £15 million and added £3 million as a credit line to support bank loans.

The Cortworth management team — led by an old Williams Holdings hand, Bill McMurray, as chief executive — finished up with a substantial 29 per cent stake in a business with an annual turnover of £46 million and 1,100 workers on the payroll. The management team has the incentive that any growth in the business will favour them disproportionately, which could lead to their stake readily reaching 50 per cent and hence achieving control of the business.

operate better outside Williams. It gives us a good future to look forward to."

The deal was completed towards the end of last year. Mr McMurray says: "Some of the six operations are now seeing an upturn. There is scope in some of them for organic growth but others would need to turn to acquisition."

Forté, Britain's largest hotelier, kept a 25 per cent stake in the Gardner Merchant contract catering business when it was sold at the end of 1992 to a consortium led by CINVen, a leading venture capital company. It netted Forté £272 million, with the management securing an 8 per cent stake. Forté could have taken more cash but opted to keep a substantial stake given the prospect of Gardner Merchant being floated on the stock market after about four years.

Thorn-EMI, the audio-visual equipment and rentals group, has made a number of disposals in recent years. It has retained a stake

in three buyouts. Kenwood was sold in September 1989 with Thorn-EMI retaining 8 per cent. Thorn-EMI Software went its own way in July 1991 with 20 per cent retained, a level of stake which guarantees Thorn-EMI a share in any profits. Thorn Lighting, a June 1993 sale, left Thorn-EMI with a 12 per cent stake.

Thorn-EMI was able to capitalise on its Kenwood stake when the company floated last year but retains the two other interests for the time being.

The stake retention approach is thus making a management buyout possible when other factors favour buying up by others in the trade. In the present economic climate there is a strong tendency for quoted companies to pick up non-core offerings. David Shaw, managing director of NatWest Ventures, the venture capital arm of National Westminster Bank, says: "The only drawback to the present environment is the ability of highly rated companies to outbid venture capital companies. Prices of good quality businesses are rising but we are always prepared to pay a full price for a top-notch company."

Banks look to upturn

Given a stable interest rate and inflation outlook, the banks expect to be very busy

Some high street banks have been very active in management buyouts and buy-ins — notably Bank of Scotland and National Westminster. Barclays has also had a long-standing interest, and Midland Bank has rapidly come up on the rails.

It is common for banks to put up cash for medium-term fixed period loans but usually as a separate activity, they will often fund an equity stake in a buyout. The loans are known as term debt and usually run for between five to seven years. Both activities are in addition to banks fulfilling their traditional roles.

Most bankers believe an upturn is on the way. David Shaw, managing director at NatWest Ventures, says: "Given a stable interest rate and inflation outlook, the opportunity to finance the acquisition of businesses has never been better. The banking market is reactivating and margins and fees are becoming more competitive."

Of its total venture capital investment last year of £80 million, NatWest Ventures spent £43 million in 21 management buyouts and buy-ins in Britain and the Continent. Last year, NatWest made a strategic decision to become involved in larger transactions than before. Its deals included the £10.9 million acquisition of engineering and heating systems from Lucas Industries that became Aerospace Composites Technologies and the £20 million buyout of the Benjamin Priest group. There was also a near-£17 million buyout of National Leisure Catering from the Wembley Group.

With the floatations market buoyant last year NatWest Ventures, like other bank investors, was able to reap the rewards of its investments. Eight of its portfolio companies secured full stock market listings and other substantial sums were raised through trade sales and buy-backs of businesses. An example was Holiday Chemical Holdings, a dyestuffs and chemicals maker, which was a £115 million buyout in 1987. The company was floated in March last year capitalised at £162 million.

HSBC, the banking group of



David McMeekin: "There is a lot of activity now in the market"

which Midland Bank is part, has two main investment entities dealing with buyouts in Britain. Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, looks after buyouts above £750,000 while Midland Growth Capital targets buyouts involving £50,000 to £750,000.

Midland Growth Capital, established 18 months ago, has seen rapid growth well ahead of the market, a pattern seen both last year and promised for the current year, according to David McMeekin, Midland's head of corporate finance. He believes the buyout market as a whole grew "a little" last year. He says: "There are very few mega deals about but there is a lot of activity now in the market."

More banks are likely to be gearing up in the buyout market if prospects do brighten. Lloyds Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland are two with increased activity already.

Lloyds Bank Commercial Services, of which Michael Riding is general manager, has seen an upturn in demand for fixed-term loans as part of buyout financing.

There is also Lloyds Bank Development Capital which provides cash in equity deals.

Royal Bank of Scotland, already an equity provider, last year beefed up its term debt business. Developing both aspects is good for the long-term business of a bank as a whole, said Joe McGrane, managing director of Royal Bank Development Capital. "Significantly more" business was now being done compared with last year.

Continental banks, German and Swiss among them, and several American ones are active in the buyout market. Term debt and equity is, for example, provided by America's Chemical Bank but it geared down in 1989 and 1990 when high prices made deals less attractive.

Now David Wood, vice president of its acquisition finance senior debt arm, says: "We have been especially active in the last four or five months." About half the transactions have been on the Continent and half in Britain.

DEREK HARRIS

Initiatives to stimulate growth in economic problem areas will be reviewed in a Focus report on small businesses in *The Times* next Wednesday

MIDLAND INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS BUY-OUT SET FOR £193m FLOTATION

The Midland's biggest newspaper group, headed by Chris Oakley, is coming to the market on 17th March 1994, with a price tag of £193m. Candover's Colin Buffin, who led the buy-out, commented: "Our belief and commitment to Chris and his team has proven to be well founded, and we are delighted to be able to realise a satisfactory return for our Fund investors."

Who's next?

Candover would like to congratulate Chris Oakley and his team on the successful flotation of Midland Independent Newspapers last month. The issue was well received and the shares went to a premium in the aftermarket.

Candover led the £125m Management buy-out in 1991 and are looking for further such investments to fund. We have arranged buy-outs, buy-ins and delistings worldwide ranging from £5m to £275m. We also provide development capital for smaller companies. If you would like to be next please call Stephen Curran or Colin Buffin on 071 489 9848.

CANDOVER

20 OLD BAILEY, LONDON EC4M 7LN. ISSUED BY CANDOVER PARTNERS LIMITED. A MEMBER OF IMRO

LEYLAND TRUCKS

Barclays Development Capital Limited arranged equity finance of £5 million for the management buy-out of Leyland Trucks.

Equity provided by Barclays Development Capital Limited and Barclays de Zeeuw World Buy-Out Trust II.

June 1993

XENON

Barclays Development Capital Limited provided equity finance of £1 million for the management buy-in of Xenon Holdings Limited.

Equity provided by Barclays Development Capital Limited.

October 1993

IMS INTERNATIONAL

Barclays Development Capital Limited arranged equity finance of £1.775 million for the management buy-in of IMS International Limited.

Equity provided by Barclays Development Capital Limited and NatWest Ventures.

November 1993

Barclays Development Capital Limited

London
Graeme White 071 407 2389

Birmingham
Brian Blakemore 021 236 8563

Leeds
Catherine Wall 0532 342456

Manchester
Tony Hyams 061 832 7222

Reading
Mike Ransom 0734 394 796



Year of marked contrasts

Ken Robbie and Mike Wright assess a year of falling quantity but improved quality



Mike Wright, left, and Ken Robbie: "The positive signs in the buyout market continue to strengthen"

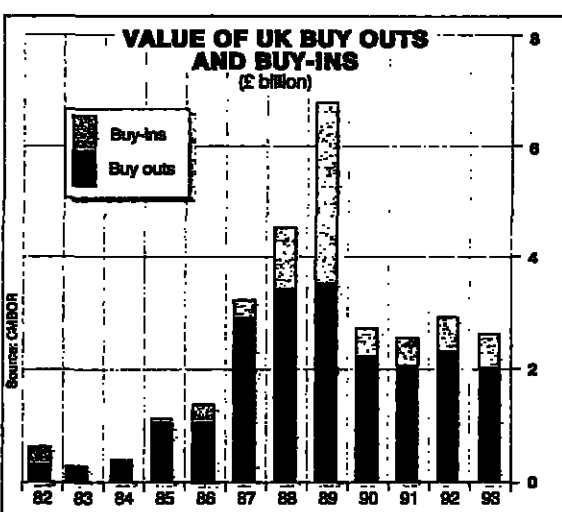
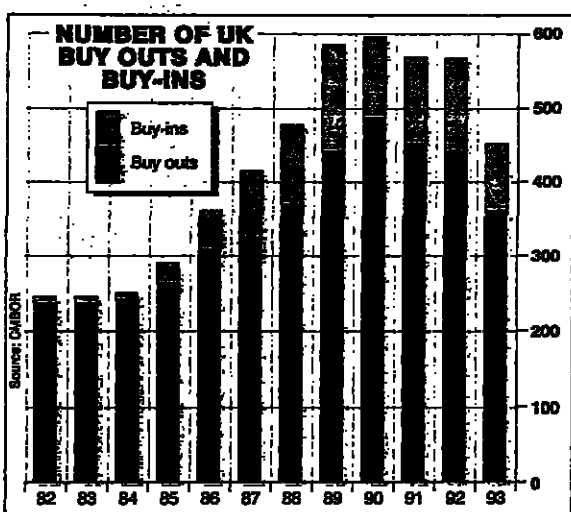
Last year proved to be one of marked contrasts for the British buyout industry. Although the number and value of transactions fell significantly, the successful flotation or sale of existing buyout and buy-in companies ensured a substantial improvement in market sentiment.

The total number of UK buyouts and buy-ins decreased by almost a fifth in 1993 to 477 transactions. Market value fell by an eighth to £2.85 billion. Market value was adversely affected as the number of transactions with a value of over £10 million fell from 60 to 53. Both the number and the value of the buyout part of the market fell by a sixth to 379 and £2.15 billion, respectively. Although buy-ins fell by over a quarter to 98 deals, their value decreased only slightly to £703 million because of one £272 million deal. Encouragingly, the number of buyouts and buy-ins during the fourth quarter was the highest of the year.

While new deal activity suffered, the strongly positive aspect of market development in 1993 was the remarkable change in exits from existing deals. Flotations of buyouts on the stock exchange or unlisted securities market (USM) more than trebled in 1993 to 36, representing a market capitalisation of over £2.1 billion. Failures declined noticeably and trade sales improved markedly as the year progressed. At 59 the number of buyouts sold to other groups was the highest since the 1989 peak of 85. Trade sales of buy-ins almost doubled to 12 and were a record.

The changing state of the economy in 1993 also had a marked effect on the source distribution of buyouts. In particular, tentative signs of economic recovery meant that the contribution of buyouts from receivership fell considerably from a fifth to a sixth of the market although their value held up well as a result of the Leyland Daf buyouts.

The market share of buyouts from UK parents fell to an all-time low of only two fifths compared to well over a half of buyouts at the end of the 1980s boom. Reduction in divestments high-



lighted parent companies' reluctance to sell subsidiaries at prices which buyout teams could meet at a time when parent-company PE ratios were high.

In contrast to divestments by UK parents, buyouts of subsidiaries of overseas companies increased, as several European economies remained in recession, occasioning distress sales, and US parents embarked once again on strategic divestments as their domestic economy recovered. After two years of decline, buyouts of privately-held businesses recovered sharply in relative importance.

There was improvement in buyouts of public sector activities, as the steady stream of acquisitions by management and employees of local authority bus operations continued. Continuation of these more positive trends is confirmed by Chris Ward, head of Buyout Services at Touche Ross Corporate Finance, who claims a significant

increase in levels of activity this year. The varying rate of recovery from recession is reflected in the emergence of a north-south divide in recent patterns of buy-out activity. The West Midlands, Wales and southern England all experienced significant declines in both their levels of activity and their market shares in line with their numbers of buyouts of failed firms in these regions.

More encouraging economic signals have not brought a return to large highly leveraged deals, with gearing ratios remaining low in comparison with the late 1980s. However, the amount of senior debt finance available for investment in buyouts appears to have improved, with more British banks interested in funding deals and some foreign banks signalling re-entry.

The market for equity finance for larger buyouts remains very competitive. Added liquidity resulting from recent flotations of buyouts and the results of fundraising in progress will ensure a high level of equity funding availability during 1994.

At the smaller end of the market, there were indications during 1993 of a sharp fall in the involvement of venture capitalists. Only 22 buyouts with a transaction value of less than £1 million were funded using venture capital, compared with 60 the previous year.

As we move into the second quarter of 1994, the positive signs in the buyout market continue to strengthen. The upward trend in exits has continued despite more uncertain stock market conditions. In the first quarter 15 buyouts were listed, with a combined market capitalization of £1.2 billion.

Dr Robbie is research fellow and Professor Mike Wright a director of the Centre for Management Buyout Research at Nottingham University.

Ten simple answers to the buyout

Alec D'Janoeff looks at the issues which most worry managers

IN THE course of advising management clients on buyouts and buy-ins we come back time and again to a number of common points of concern. I call these my ten easy questions.

"I know I'm up for sale or considered non-core. How do I deal with my parent company?"

This is inevitably going to be one of the most difficult areas. Management teams are invariably placed in a position where there is a conflict of interest between their duties as directors and their role as potential purchasers of the company.

Our initial advice is to make a discreet approach to the parent company's chief executive officer (CEO) at main board level and ask permission to: make a preliminary investigation of the buyout option; seek external advice; and disclose details of the business to advisers. It helps to be given an indication of the price the vendor is expecting, but be careful, avoid agreeing deals too early.

"I have permission to go ahead. Who should be in the buyout team?" Typically, the initial strategy is developed by the CEO and financial director of the buyout target. I always encourage the CEO to consider who should be included in the buyout team and their relative shareholdings at an early stage.

The new board should number between three and six, as any more than this makes the decision-making process too cumbersome.

"I have a deal. Where should I go for the finance?"

Management will work from an early stage with their advisers, who will introduce them to the most suitable venture capital house. On the basis of the business plan, the advisers will assess the potential purchase price and propose a financial structure.

"They will then act as lead manager for the fundraising, identifying and obtaining offers of equity and debt to finance the deal in the best interests of management and the target's future."

"How much does my team have to put in?" The amount invested by management needs to be sufficiently large for the team to demonstrate commitment, but not so great that they constantly worry about their personal finances. A rule of thumb is one year's salary.

"What action do I need to put my personal affairs in order?" In the majority of buyouts, participants are unprepared for the wealth that might accrue to them. To maximise this future gain it is important that managers review their financial and tax affairs. Points to consider are the tax efficiency of their shareholdings and associated borrowings, capital gains tax, inheritance tax, and the protection of dependents by adequate insurance and a carefully drafted will.

"What is the corporate structure by which the buyout is effected?" Typically, the management will form a new company, Newco. On completion the institutional equity and debt

being redeemed or converted into ordinary shares. This enables the institution to recover most of its investment by having its preference shares repaid.

The debt can take many forms: bank overdrafts; medium-term loans; revolving credit facilities; and mezzanine finance.

"I am sharing the equity with the venture capitalists. Won't they want to control the business?"

A frequent concern of managers is that decision-making will pass to their investors. I emphasise to managers that all they are doing is swapping one set of shareholders for another and there is no reason to expect a more restrictive attitude. The venture capitalist is primarily backing the management team and will not want to interfere in the day-to-day running of the business, provided all is going well.

Financial backers will have non-executive representation on the board.

"How long will it take?" Management buyouts are completed to tight deadlines with late nights being worked to put the documentation in place. Before this stage, however, there is often a long and frustrating gestation period until the buyout is established as a feasible prospect.

The real timetable starts when the vendor conditionally accepts the offer for the business, signs heads of terms, and grants an exclusivity period. Detailed work then begins. This stage typically takes six to eight weeks, leading to completion.

"How can I pay all those fees?"

Inevitably there are substantial costs. These include equity underwriting fees, stamp duty, professional advisors, due diligence costs and bank arrangement fees. These are paid out of the funds raised by Newco and the only cost to management is their equity investment. An aborted deal should cost management lots of time but no money.

"If you have any queries or would like a copy of CBL's Managers' guide to MBOs, call Alec D'Janoeff, a partner at Coopers & Lybrand Corporate Finance, on 071-215 1000."

"1993 was a good year for buyouts with CBL capturing a 36 per cent market share by value. Successful completions include: the MBO of Thorn Lighting at £162 million, SLD Holdings at £90 million, Colas at £72 million, three of the former Leyland Daf businesses and Ultra Electronics at £40 million."



Alec D'Janoeff

New edge for the venturers

Britain's venture capitalists — there are 120 members of the British Venture Capital Association — invested £1.4 billion worldwide last year, maintaining the level of the year before, the BVCA announced this week.

Derik Harris writes. Ron Hollidge, the BVCA chairman and managing director of Lloyds Development Capital, expects independent venture capitalists — this excludes captive funds such as bank and pension fund subsidiaries — to raise substantially more capital this year. But he says: "One of the greatest challenges is to keep funds flowing in."

However, he believes the pull-out of recession and a buoyant stock market, together with investment incentives in the last Budget, should help bring a flow of new money to the venture capital sector.

Management buyouts and buy-ins accounted for £769 million of BVCA members' investments during last year. This was 62 per cent of the £1.23 billion invested in Britain.

The number of buyout and buy-in deals dropped by nearly a third compared with 1992 to 233. Total investment declined much less, from £807 million in 1992 to £769 million last year.

The UK capital venture industry has invested at least £10 billion since 1985 — for BVCA a landmark figure establishing venture capital funds firmly as a key provider for unquoted companies.

Receiverships of buyouts and buy-ins maintained their downward path in the first quarter of 1994, while trade sales of small to medium-sized buyouts, in particular, continued to improve, write Mike Wright and Ken Robbie. The decline in new deals appears to have been reversed. The number of buyouts and buy-ins completed in the first quarter rose by a tenth from the same period last year to 125. Their total value, £675 million was 17 per cent higher.

This improvement in activity has been seen by Lucinda Horler Webber, a Director of Barclays Development Capital, who notes that each of their five UK offices are experiencing a higher level of activity than for some time and which is substantially up on the first quarter of 1993.

MANAGEMENT Buy-Out

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MANAGEMENT Buy-Out

ALDERS

1993
£175 million
Flotation

MANAGEMENT Buy-Out

Arundale

1993
Acquired by
private investors
Price undisclosed

MANAGEMENT Buy-Out

Swift

1993
£24 million
Acquisition
by
Christianson PLC

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American 'friendly fire' kills 26

Two British officers, thought to be a lieutenant colonel and a major, were among 26 people killed yesterday when two American warplanes shot down two of their own helicopters in the "no-fly zone" over northern Iraq.

The attacking jets had mistaken the helicopters, which were delivering allied officials to a UN security meeting, for two Iraqi Russian-made Hind craft and had fired missiles at them. Pages 1, 13

Operation raises diabetes cure hopes

A remarkable breakthrough in the treatment of a stricken patient has led scientists to believe they may have found a cure for diabetes. A 38-year-old American patient, who had suffered for 30 years and was going blind, has been transformed by an operation to transplant insulin-producing cells. Page 1

Major rebuked

Betty Boothroyd, the Commons Speaker, gave an unprecedented rebuke to John Major after he accused Margaret Becket, the Labour deputy leader, of "peddling untruths" in exchanges concerning health care for the elderly. Pages 1, 6

UN soldiers held

Bosnian Serbs moved a tank into the heavy weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo, shelled the UN-controlled Tuzla airfield and abducted Canadian UN soldiers guarding artillery. Pages 1, 10

French arrest GP

French police arrested Dr Patrick Alesworth who is wanted in connection with the murder of his daughter at their home in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Page 3

Wilderness warning

Tristan Garel-Jones, former foreign office minister, warned the Tories they could be in opposition for a decade if they tried to push John Major from office. Page 2

Lib-Dems confident

The Liberal Democrats launched their local election campaign with a forecast of significant advances in Labour areas. Page 9

Talks fail

The mediation effort in South Africa of Henry Kissinger and Lord Carrington ended in failure yesterday and both men flew home. Page 11

Cobain widow on drugs charges

Courtney Love, the rock singer widow of Kurt Cobain, leader of the band Nirvana who committed suicide in Seattle last week, was arrested in Los Angeles on drugs charges after having spent several days searching for her husband. Police said she had been charged with drugs possession and released on bail only 24 hours before Cobain shot himself. Page 10

IRA targets

The Old Bailey was told yesterday that Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, and Stella Rimington, the head of MI5, were prime targets on an IRA hit list found in a London flat. Page 5

Policeman accused

Lawyers representing Eddie Browning, serving life for the M50 murder of a pregnant woman, said a policeman withheld a video recording that could have helped him. Page 3

Altar women

The Pope will allow women and girls to serve at the altar during Mass, according to a letter to Catholic bishops. Page 5

Naval discord

Ukraine has barred Russian ships from docking at its ports, increasing fears of a fresh confrontation between their rival naval forces in the Black Sea Fleet. Page 12

Golf club feud

John Buckingham, 57, suing two golf opponents who accused him of cheating, told a libel jury he believed they had wanted him out of their club. Page 7

Law-school rejects

More than 60 students already granted scholarships of up to £10,000 from the Inns of Court, are among 1,500 who failed to win places on next year's Bar law-school vocational course. Page 8



The maze at Hever castle in Kent is nearly 90 years old. Douglas Goodyear, head gardener, keeps it in trim for summer visitors

Fort: Britain's biggest hotel group has been forced to write down the book value of its property portfolio by £412 million as a result of continuing falls in hotel values around the world. Pages 42, 44

Lancer Boss: The German arm of the collapsed British Lancer Boss fork-lift truck company was yesterday sold to Jungheinrich, a leading German rival. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 14.1 to 3131.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index closed unchanged at 80.0 after a rise from \$1.4755 to \$1.4770 but a fall from DM2.5278 to DM2.5240. Page 26

Cricket: The match at Fenner's, Cambridge, was halted by hail and that at The Parks, Oxford, saw branches of a 200-year-old Turkish hazel behind a sight screen, blown off. Pages 42, 44

Rugby Union: Clement Freud was delighted by the women's match between England and Russia and fascinated by the openness of play. Page 42

Athletics: In the build-up to the NutraSweet London Marathon on Sunday, David Powell examines the vital role of the pacemaker, who must run neither too fast nor too slow. Page 40

Homestead royals: "It is in the nature of my country that all Greeks are homesteaders." Valerie Grove meets the former King Constantine. Page 14

Family secrets: What is the secret of the happy family? Catherine Milton investigates. Page 15

Going home: Alexander Solzhenitsyn has finally decided to end his long exile from his Mother Russia. Page 15

Keeping up to date: Five pages of news and job opportunities start on. Page 34

Pop on Friday: New albums include the latest thoughts on sex, death and religion from Nick Cave, and previously unreleased Jimi Hendrix tracks. Plus Caitlin Moran on why a generation mourns Kurt Cobain. Pages 32, 33

Done with Verve: Celebrating 50 years of the great jazz record label, many of America's finest performers gathered at Carnegie Hall for a gala concert. Page 33

Family misfortune: Phyllis Nagy's new play *Butterfly Kiss*, at the Almeida, is an examination of voyeurism, abuse and murder within a single family. Page 31

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Fun and the family car

Peter Brown enters the realms of fantasy to design the perfect family fun-car.

Exploring Van Diemen's Land

Travel Down Under for a walkabout on the wild side of Tasmania, and take on the Australian outback out west.

Wraps off the Haymarket

On Tuesday the curtain goes up on the sumptuously restored Theatre Royal, Haymarket, one of Britain's oldest theatres which has undergone a £1.3 million refurbishment.

The snobbery that goes with owning an Audi rather than a Ford is entertainingly explored in *From A to B: Tales of Modern Motoring* (BBC2, 9.30pm). Page 43

Death over Iraq

The shooting down of two US helicopters was an accident that should not have happened if established military procedures had been properly followed. Page 17

Capital choice

A strategic authority for London need not be as bureaucratic as the old GLC. But a replacement must be created. Page 17

Life after forty-six

The Barbados Test was fairly won. But it must not be forgotten that the series is lost. Page 17

BERNARD LEVIN

The burns in question are the people who, when millions are at stake, innocently ensure that whatever the enterprise in which they are involved they will, all innocently, knock the china off the sideboard with their elbows. Page 16

PHILIP HOWARD

The theatrical fallacy consists of supposing that great actors and actresses are like the parts they play once they are off-stage. But acting is all about pseudo sincerity. Once you can fake honesty, you can act. Page 16

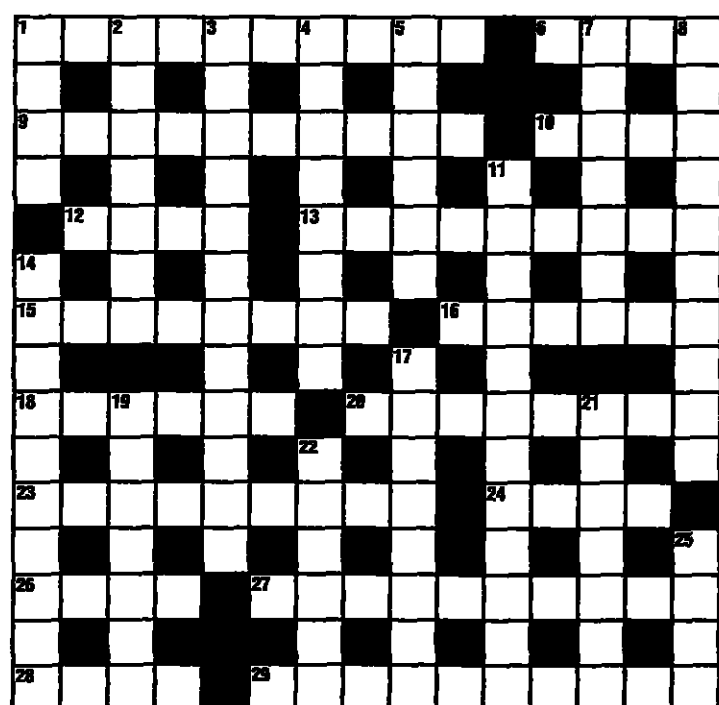
Clyde Fitzer, naval engineer; Viktor Afanasyev, editor-in-chief, *Pravda*, 1976-89; Archie Newman, former director of sponsorship of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Page 19

The moral and ethical issues of Down's syndrome tests. Page 17

The US should try to develop a co-operative relationship to strengthen foreign policy moderates like Mr Yeltsin and Mr Kozirev. Page 17

This remarkable infusion of brainpower — maths and physics whizzes — into the US financial industry is one reason it dominates the world. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,517



- ACROSS
- Pessimistic forecast from Irishman, as a rule (7,3).
 - Midnight service for foreign noble (4).
 - Forced to include square-dancing in the ball (10).
 - Perform melody on piano (4).
 - Weapon taking toll (4).
 - Uncouth as a hooligan when disorderly (5,4).
 - Display what's provided in, say, Main Street? (8).
 - Match points referred back to judge (6).
 - Order to start shooting in battle (6).
 - Criminal who's relatively un-blessed? (8).
 - Attachment on weapon works — don't change it (5,4).
- DOWN
- Chess manoeuvre supporting king (4).
 - Wind-sock (4).
 - Special bulletin about the Spanish that signals bad news (6,4).
 - Toothless philanthropist vanishes into the garden (4).
 - Hackneyed yarn, lacking detail (10).
 - Some money, partly in note form (4).
 - Is as different in race as a foreigner (7).
 - Tavern? Bills are checked there (5,2,5).
 - Master is snooping about, as they say? That's a revelation (8).
 - Difficult moment for Cockney passion (6).
 - Make easier to stop investment (7).
 - Throw from speeding mount (6,4).
 - Earl's seat (12).
 - It's not clear I am fair (10).
 - Pick a roller coaster to sit on (8).
 - Like the sound of CD player? (3-4).
 - Flower girl embracing boy (7).
 - All that's needed to upset somebody — yuck! (6).
 - Odd bits of culture, such as this (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,516

DEEPER DUNKING
EXTRA DUNKING
FICHTER ARROWROOT
LENA ARROWROOT
EMERGENCY PLAYER
COP DUNKING
TRINE NERVENESS
RACER
ARROWROOT TACKY
COP DUNKING
BESON CHALLENGE
YCHARY TIL
LOOKINGUP DARED
ULBETIE
GARVERLY TRAMCAR

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Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702
Dorset, Devon & Cornwall 703
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset 704
Bristol, Bath & Avon 705
Buckinghamshire 706
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire 707
West Midlands 708
East Midlands 709
North Midlands 710
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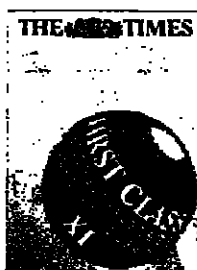
ARTS 31-33

Susan Brown:
doomed mother in a
bitter new comedy



INFOTECH 34-38

A new breed of
user for personal
computers



SPORT 39-44

Check your
scores in the
1st XI game

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
Page 43

THE TIMES

FRIDAY APRIL 15 1994



The new face of Laura Ashley: Hugh Blakeway Webb, the new executive chairman of the fashion to fabrics group, shows off the cover girl from his latest catalogue. Mr Webb replaces Jim Maxmin, the outgoing chief executive, who yesterday unveiled profits 70 per cent up. Sales rise, page 25

German rival takes over subsidiary of Lancer Boss

By Ross TIEHAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE German arm of the collapsed British Lancer Boss forklift truck company was yesterday sold by its receiver to Jungheinrich, a leading German rival.

The sale agreement was signed immediately after a meeting of Steinbock Boss creditors, despite secret pleas for a delay from the British Government.

Administrators to the British parent company failed to persuade the German receiver, Werner Folger, to begin detailed negotiations with an unnamed British bidder that wanted to buy the whole Lancer Boss business.

German bankers took the view that re-opening the bidding for Steinbock Boss would prolong uncertainty and thus damage the company's sales prospects at the key Hannover trade fair, which starts next Wednesday.

Their decision gives Jungheinrich a head start in the bidding to buy the remaining plants in Britain, Spain and Italy. It also reduces the likely price, since the Steinbock subsidiary, at Moosburg, near Munich, is closely integrated with its former British parent, which employs 600 staff building diesel-engined lift trucks at Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

Jungheinrich now controls the electric vehicles in the 30-truck Lancer Boss range and the supply of key components to the British plant.

The administrator to Lancer Boss, Allan Griffiths of Grant Thornton, the accountant, was clearly very disappointed. But he said yesterday: "On account of the new situation and the close synergies between the different ranges manufactured by Lancer Boss and Steinbock Boss, we will be looking forward to discussing co-operation between the two companies with the directors

of Jungheinrich." Any would-be rival bidder for Lancer Boss Group, which has annual sales of £90 million, will now be obliged to reach complex collaboration agreements with Jungheinrich.

The Hamburg-based group has annual sales of £590 million and ranks among the top five forklift truck makers worldwide.

Last night, Anton Pischl, managing director of Steinbock Boss, said he was pleased at the outcome, which would safeguard 800 jobs at the Moosburg plant and more at the company's dealers.

"Some people from the British Government have tried to influence people to delay things for the next two weeks," he said. "But if we had waited until after the Hannover fair we would have been out of the market."

Herr Pischl, who was party to earlier discussions with a variety of would-be bidders for the group, said he believed delays in finalising a sale had left the German creditors, led by Bayerische Hypo-Bank, little choice but to agree the sale to Jungheinrich.

Sources close to the administrator said Grant Thornton had not been given the access to the German receiver it sought, even though Herr Pischl said there had been two meetings between the receiver and Grant Thornton representatives.

Jungheinrich is believed to want to buy Lancer's Italian associate and the Spanish subsidiary, where 180 people work.

Yesterday, employees at the plant in Montcada y Reixach, ten miles from Barcelona, said the English production director, Thomas D. Gray, and the finance director, M. James English, disappeared last Monday and had not been seen or heard from since.

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS
TODAY

TRADE WAR



Japan warmed up the GATT conference on world trade in Marrakesh, Morocco, after being angered by America
Page 24

TRADE IN

Workers at GRT Bus Group will each be at least £10,000 better off, on paper, when the company joins the market
Page 26

TRADE PRICE



Blue Circle says demand for cement is 5 per cent above last year and that price increases and cost cuts are holding up
Page 25

TRADE WIND

Laura Ashley, the retailer, announced its first sales rise for three years and raised hopes of a dividend resumption
Page 25

Forte cuts property values by £412m

By Susan GLITCHER

FORTE, Britain's biggest hotel group, has had to write down the book value of its property portfolio by £412 million because of continuing falls in global hotel values.

The move, which cuts the value of its property and fixed assets to £3.4 billion, is more than double the amount the City had been expecting. It also follows a £344 million writedown the previous year.

One leisure analyst said: "It's a bit strange. Twelve months ago they said their values were conservative and now they are at it again."

Rocco Forte, chairman, said the latest revaluation related mainly to overseas hotels whereas the last one was principally on British properties. Most of the writedown has been offset against the revaluation reserve, with only £88 million being charged against the profit and loss account.

Pre-tax profits fell from £164 million to £121 million for the year to January 31.

Stripping out exceptional items on property and disposals, underlying profits rose by 23 per cent from £71 million to £87 million. Mr Forte said the results marked the start of the process of rebuilding earnings after three years of falling profits.

The disposal programme, which included the flotation of Alpha Airports and the sale of Kentucky Fried Chicken, reduced net borrowings to £1.05 billion from a high of more than £1.5 billion two years ago. Gearing has fallen to 43 per cent.

A final dividend of 4.75p makes an unchanged total of 7.5p.

Tempus, page 27

City is sceptical of shrinking trade gap

By Janet BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S trade deficit with the rest of the world shrank sharply in January, to £916 million, from £1.57 billion in December, but hardly anyone in the City believes the figures are accurate. Sterling, which would normally be boosted by a dramatic improvement in the trade position, was yesterday unmoved.

The Central Statistical Office acknowledged that, despite January's apparently much improved performance, overall trends suggested that exports were dropping by about 0.5 per cent a month and imports were still rising at roughly the same rate.

The figures were at odds with the longer-run pattern of monthly figures. Excluding oil and erratics, imports rose by 0.5 per cent in January and exports by 5.5 per cent. But, in the three months to January, exports, on the same basis, were down by 5 per cent compared with the three

■ The suspect nature of the trade statistics is indicated by the export volumes which were up 13 per cent in January but were down by 8.5 per cent on a quarterly basis

months to October, while imports were up by 2.5 per cent.

The suspect nature of these statistics can also be seen by taking export volumes to the EC alone. In January, again excluding oil and erratics, they surged by 13 per cent from December's level. But in the three months to January, exports fell by 8.5 per cent compared with the previous three. It is unlikely that Britain's export performance could have turned round this dramatically.

There is a big discrepancy, too, between import performance in January and the pattern in the three months to January. Excluding oil and erratics, imports from the EC dropped by 0.5 per cent in January but rose by 3.5 per cent in the three months.

CSO statisticians said they believed there were difficulties

with seasonal adjustment under the Intrastat system; January's data could have understated imports from the EC and overstated exports.

The CSO said that in May it would publish the first fruits of a joint investigation, with Customs and Excise, of the Intrastat system; work would continue into the summer and it hoped to conclude the review by July.

There is a widespread suspicion in the City that Intrastat is under-reporting imports and that the balance between export prices and volumes may also be awry.

Underlying trends show that Britain's trade position is gradually worsening. The deficit, excluding oil and erratics, was £1.2 billion in January, compared with £1.8 billion in December. But, in the three months, the gap widened to

£4.6 billion, from £3.7 billion in the previous three.

City economists pointed out that the deficit would have been even larger, had it not been for a sharp increase in export prices, as British firms had taken advantage of sterling's devaluation since September 1992.

Comparing the three months to January this year with the equivalent period in 1992-93, export prices rose by 8.5 per cent, import prices by only 0.5 per cent.

Simon Briscoe, chief economist at SG Warburg, said: "Fear remains that exporters are pricing themselves out of business."

The economics team at James Capel said the widening of the deficit had been slowed by a significant improvement in the terms of trade. "With export prices now fully reflecting the fall in the exchange rate, the trade deficit is likely to worsen over the coming months as movements in export and import volumes (as opposed to prices) dominate developments," James Capel said.

Bonn rate cut fails to move markets

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE Bundesbank's decision to cut its two leading interest rates by 4 point left British and continental stock markets unmoved, as the focus turned to other developments.

News that two American helicopters had been shot down in northern Iraq, as well as reports of heavy intervention in support of the dollar against the yen by the Bundesbank on behalf of the Bank of Japan, affected sentiment.

The German discount rate now stands at 5 per cent and the Lombard rate at 6.5 per cent. The Bundesbank's action, which Hans Tietmeyer, the president, said reflected

improving inflation prospects, briefly triggered rallies in shares as well as matching rate cuts around Europe. Events in Iraq then set off a bout of nervous selling until the news that no Iraqi planes had been involved.

The Bundesbank cuts came earlier than many expected. There was some consternation that the bank had not pinned the move on concrete signs of any new, improved M3 money supply figures. Its decision appears to underline its determination to help the economy while still maintaining credibility.

The German bank's inter-

vention helped the dollar to rally by about one yen to ¥104, against its all-time low of ¥100.40. Other European banks were not thought to be involved in a co-ordinated action to boost the dollar against the yen, which has been rising strongly on US-Japanese trade tensions and the resignation of the Japanese prime minister on Friday.

In London, the FT-SE 100 index closed 14.1 lower at 3,131.7, missing out on a later recovery on Wall Street. Shares in Paris and Frankfurt also closed down.

Stock markets, page 26



Tietmeyer: intervention

Heron sells properties to Derwent for £33m

By Our City Staff

HERON Corporation, the troubled property group headed by Gerald Ronson, has sold its head office and six other properties, including three West End office buildings, for £33 million to Derwent Valley Holdings, the property group. The financial restructuring of Heron came close to collapse last month when creditors failed to turn up to a meeting to approve a three-month deferral of interest payments to its bankers and bondholders. Heron is trying to reconvene a creditors' meeting to take place early next month. Derwent Valley is raising £18.6 million in a 1-for-3 rights issue to help fund the purchases which generate income of £3.45 million. Heron accounts for almost 10 per cent of the portfolio's rent roll on its lease at 19 Marylebone Road which is due to expire in 2010.

Heron, which will continue to occupy the building, has agreed to pay the first year's rent in advance and Derwent Valley said yesterday that it did not regard the Heron tenancy as significant, taking into account Derwent's total rental income of £8.2 million. In addition to Marylebone Road, Derwent is buying an office block in Westminster, a building in Soho, partially let to Jaeger, and a six-storey building in Shaftesbury Avenue. Derwent is issuing 3.9 million shares at 500p. Last year, the company increased its profits to £2.5 million and its net asset value per share at the year end was 544p. A 1-for-1 capitalisation issue is being made after the rights issue.

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the most
non-stop flights.
Even more
non-stops.



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STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
FT-SE 100 3131.7 -14.1	DOW JONES 3668.31 +6.84	Dm 2.5240 -0.0038	US \$ 1.4770 +0.0015	\$376.95 per oz	BRENT CRUDE \$14.85 per barrel (Jun)
Midday trading figure				6pm	

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 26, SHARE PRICES PAGE 29

Warning over sales of pensions

By Robert Miller

HIGHER training standards and stricter regulatory controls will lead to a fall in the sale of life and pensions products this year, warned Sir Simon Hornby, chairman of Lloyds Abbey Life.

He said: "These steps will have an impact on our UK life and pensions sales in 1994 but we believe they will benefit the business in the future." Stephen Maran, chief executive, added: "We have to re-examine the whole process through which we sell."

Andrew Pitt, insurance analyst at BZW, said: "As a result of the reforms under way in the life industry, with the pensions transfer scandal and the tighter regulatory regime, we expect a 20 per cent fall in the overall level of regular premium business in 1995."

The Association of British Insurers has estimated the new commission disclosures will cost £100 million.

Japan claims world trade leadership

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH IN MARRAKESH

JAPAN, angered by pressure from the Clinton administration to open its markets further to American goods and services, declared its intention to lead the world to prosperity and peace in the next century.

Tsutomu Hata, Japan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, challenged America for world economic leadership in a speech to the world trade conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, on the eve of the formal signing of the historic Uruguay Round treaty on free multilateral trade.

Mr Hata, who holds talks this morning with Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, to try to resolve the bilateral dispute over Japan's \$60 billion trade surplus with

America, is attending the Marrakesh ministerial meeting despite political turmoil in Japan.

The Uruguay Round, hailed as the biggest step towards freer world trade since the second world war, came about thanks to Japanese co-sponsorship, Mr Hata said. Tokyo hopes the creation of a World Trade Organisation under the Uruguay Round treaty will help to restrain US attempts to resolve trade disputes unilaterally.

Mr Hata highlighted Japan's scrapping of its ancient ban on imported rice as evidence of its readiness to accept responsibility and exert leadership for the success of the Uruguay Round.

In remarks clearly directed against the tough stance America has taken against Japan, he said "loud voices", which threatened the open and multilateral trading system, were a cause of deep concern. He cited abuse of anti-dumping measures, unilateral sanctions, protection of domestic industry and the tendency to regional trade pacts as the key threats.

Tim Sainsbury, Britain's industry minister, told the conference that freer trade increased trade and brought more choice for consumers. The unfinished business of the Uruguay Round had to be completed, especially in the key area of financial services, he said.



Tsutomu Hata, yesterday, at the Marrakesh meeting

Judgment threatens Lloyd's agents

By Sarah Bagnall
Insurance Correspondent

THE future of many Lloyd's members' agents has been put in serious doubt as a result of Wednesday's victory in the High Court by two names.

The historic victory against the former HG Poland members' agency gives names direct access to the assets of members' agents for the first time. Michael Sword-Daniels and Richard Brown won damages of more than £1 million against their former members' agents because they failed to follow instructions to put them on "low risk" syndicates.

As a result of the ruling, Lloyd's members' agents now face attack on two fronts. Group actions by names are fighting for recompense from members' agents on the grounds that their managing agent was negligent.

This route was also cleared on Wednesday in a separate House of Lords ruling. Upholding an earlier judgment, the court ruled that members' agents are contractually liable for the negligent underwriting by Lloyd's syndicates.

One Lloyd's professional said: "Many members' agents will collapse. Their assets will be found to be deficient because the only decent asset they have is their errors and omissions insurance cover which will be used up quickly." John Stace, at Lloyd's agency Stace Barr, said: "There is no doubt that there will be members' agents who must be very fearful following this ruling."

City Diary, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Investigation launched in Schneider affair

PROSECUTORS launched an investigation into fugitive German property magnate Jürgen Schneider and his wife on suspicion of fraud yesterday. Schneider has been missing since he abruptly quit as head of one of Germany's largest property development groups, plunging it into crisis and threatening thousands of jobs.

Schneider, aged 59, and his wife Claudia were suspected of fraud in connection with the Zeil-Galerie, a prestigious shopping centre in the Frankfurt city centre and one of about 80 high-profile Schneider properties in Germany. In Frankfurt, Schneider's company began talks with about 40 bank creditors to find a way to prevent its bankruptcy. But some bankers going into the closed-door meeting at a city hotel said an application for insolvency proceedings was probably imminent.

Threat to Kohl, page 12

Audi stays in the red

AUDI, Volkswagen's luxury car subsidiary, made a loss in the first quarter but expects to break even in the full year, Herbert Demel, the chairman, said. The company suffered a 25 per cent sales fall and a DM148 million pre-tax loss in 1993, despite a similar prediction by Herr Demel at the beginning of that year. There was a profit of DM508 million in 1992. Herr Demel said the company would achieve break-even through further structural improvements and cost-cutting. "We are almost out of the valley," he said.

Guinness victory

GUINNESS celebrated yesterday after taking the distribution agreement for Grand Marnier liqueur in America away from Grand Metropolitan. From next January, Schieffelin & Somerset, the joint venture wines and spirits business of United Distillers, Guinness's spirits arm, and Moët Hennessy, will distribute the liqueur in America. Neither Guinness nor Grand Metropolitan would put a value on the distribution agreement yesterday. Guinness shares added 2p to 471p, while GrandMet's fell 7p to 458p.

Exports lift Lamont

PROFITS of Lamont Holdings, the Belfast textiles group, recovered strongly last year, rising to £11.4 million before tax, from £6.3 million. Lamont said that so long as the market stabilises, even at present levels, steady growth was possible in the current year. Earnings per share were 25.5p, from 16.09p. The total dividend rises to 12.5p (12p) with a 9p final. The shares rose 9p, to 433p. Turnover rose to £136 million, from £115 million, aided by a 13 per cent rise in exports, with sales outside the European Union 56 per cent up.

Gas buy for Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE Electricity is buying a 6.83 per cent stake in the Armada gas field in the North Sea from Armada Hess for £27.2 million. The company is also earmarking a further £45 million for the development phase of the project. The move, intended to take advantage of increased competition in the domestic gas market, will supply Yorkshire with 85 million therms of gas per year from 1998. Development work is expected to begin within the next few months after Annex B approval from the Department of Trade and Industry.

ENGELS - HOLLANDSE BELEGINGS TRUST N.V. (English and Dutch Investment Trust)

Established in Amsterdam

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Thursday 28th April 1994 at 14.00 hours at the office of the Company, Keizersgracht 674, Amsterdam. Shareholders wishing to attend the General Meeting of the Company must deposit their shares not less than seven days before the Meeting with Hollandse Koopmansbank N.V. Croeselaan 1, Utrecht or with Hill Samuel Bank Limited, 45 Beech Street, London EC2P 2LX. A deposit certificate will be issued to such shareholders which, upon surrender, will entitle them to vote at the Meeting.

Holders of shares registered with the Company in its Shareholders' Register must inform the Board of Managing Directors in writing at least four days prior to the Meeting that they intend to attend the Meeting in person or by proxy.

Holders of Participation Certificates issued by Royal Exchange Assurance who wish to attend and vote at the Meeting must contact the Trustee Department of Royal Exchange Assurance, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UU at least ten days before the Meeting.

Royal Exchange Assurance is prepared to issue a power of attorney for the same number of shares held in trust as the Certificateholders shall have deposited with Royal Exchange Assurance.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1993 and of the Resolutions to be put before the Meeting will be available at the offices of the above named.

By order of the Board
Hollandse Koopmansbank N.V.
Management
W. Michies
Amsterdam
15th April 1994

BROOKS SERVICE GRP

Pre-tax £225,000
EPS: 3.13p (1.78p loss)
Div: 1p, mkg 1.5p (nil)

Final results. In previous year, pre-tax loss was £392,000. Trading still difficult, but encouraging signs in some areas.

ESTATES & AGENCY (Int)

Pre-tax £285,000
EPS: 3.94p (8.89p)
Div: 3.5p (0.5p)

Previous interim profit was £416,000. Gross income was £2.65 million, up from £2.48 million.

IPECO HOLDINGS (Fin)

Pre-tax £2.25m (£3.3m)
EPS: 5.45p (7.72p)
Div: 2.3p, mkg 3.6p

Total dividend in previous year was 3.5p. Aerospace demand now stabilising and reduced cost base helping margins.

PRESTWICK HLDGS (Int)

Pre-tax £1.9m loss
EPS: 9.44p loss
Div: Nil (0.5p)

There was a £106,000 profit last time, with loss per share of 0.02p. Exceptional charge of £904,000 against discontinued operations.

TUDOR (Fin)

Pre-tax £365,000 loss
EPS: 7.58p loss
Div: 0.25p, mkg 0.25p

In previous year, there was a loss of £104,000, with loss per share of 1.16p, and the dividend was 0.25p.

STORM GROUP (Fin)

Pre-tax £122,000
EPS: 0.2p (2.8p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)

In previous year, there was a loss of £2.08 million. Operating profit of £311,000 after £107,000 refinancing charge.

Lower Prices from British Gas.

We are introducing a new Schedule of prices for domestic gas supply from 1st May 1994. This new schedule will provide for customers using more than 12,000 kWh per year. The new schedule will be introduced on 1st May 1994. The new schedule will be introduced on 1st May 1994. The new schedule will be introduced on 1st May 1994.

NEW SCHEDULE

- Do you have a gas meter?
- Is your gas bill more than £7.20 per year?

If so, then you may qualify for cheaper gas. British Gas is now offering a choice of meter or contract supplies to customers using 73,200 kWh a year or more. Call our new helpline number below. Just one phone call could reduce your gas bill.

Scotland	0845 125552	East Midlands	0533 355255	North East	0191 255255
Northern	0345 826577	West Midlands	0245 125555	South Eastern	0345 145555
North Western	0345 256255	Wales	0345 656055	South Western	01753 255555
North Eastern	0345 626784	Eastern	097 362 306	South Western	01753 255555

SCHEDULE SP1 PRICES (Effective 1st May 1994)

Tier	kWh Consumed Per Annum	Commodity Charge (p/kWh)
1	0 - 73,199	1.450p
2	73,200 - 146,536	1.320p
3	146,537 - 293,071	1.270p
4	293,072 - 439,607	1.235p
5	439,608 - and above	1.205p

Not Standing Charges

If you would like to benefit from these lower prices you must enter into a Special Agreement (contract). The price of gas under the contract will be calculated from the table above as the weighted average appropriate to your annual consumption and will be fixed for a year. Payment is by Direct Debit and the price of gas may be subject to rescheduling.

During this period you will be able to transfer to another gas supplier if you wish. If you do decide to transfer you need only give us three months written notice and we will terminate the contract.

If you would like more information, then give us a call on our helpline number above.

Volume Band	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Domestic Consumption kWh/Annum	73,200 to 146,536	146,537 to 293,071	293,072 to 439,607	439,608 to 586,143	586,144 to 732,679	732,680 to 879,215	879,216 to 1,025,751	1,025,752 to 1,172,287	1,172,288 to 1,318,823	1,318,824 to 1,465,359	1,465,360 to 1,611,895	1,611,896 to 1,758,431
Monthly Charge (£)	0	67	131	256	480	925	2,450	4,567	13,962	22,295	37,920	48,337

Prices per kWh	1.268	1.212	1.186	1.152	1.117	1.083	1.024	0.981	0.904	0.870	0.845	0.836
Multiple Premises	-	1.229	1.203	1.169	1.134	1.100	1.041	0.999	0.921	0.887	0.862	0.853

Customers on contract supply will be able to transfer to another gas supplier if they wish. The price of gas under the contract will be calculated from the table above as the weighted average appropriate to your annual consumption and will be fixed for a year. Payment is by Direct Debit and the price of gas may be subject to rescheduling.

During this period you will be able to transfer to another gas supplier if you wish. If you do decide to transfer you need only give us three months written notice and we will terminate the contract.

If you would like more information, then give us a call on our helpline number above.

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British Gas

هنا من الأمل

□ There are no excuses for the fate of Lancer Boss □ Britain's trade deficit is still chronic □ Shake-up at Aegis

Another German Boss

□ BACK on October 22, 1992, Sir Neville Bowman-Shaw, then chairman of Lancer Boss, the lift truck group, wrote: "It is believed that in this rapidly-changing industry, the leaders will be evident at the April 1994 Hannover Fair."

The fair opens next week. On display will be a revolutionary, joy-stick controlled truck. The name on the side will be Boss. The owner's name will be Jungheinrich. Once again, a British-owned manufacturing company with leading-edge technology has slipped into foreign hands.

Steinbock Boss, the German half of Lancer Boss, was yesterday sold by a German receiver to its biggest German rival. Since the British plant and its German sister are interdependent, the administrator to Lancer Boss in Britain now has little choice but to negotiate to sell the rest to Jungheinrich at a discount.

The outcome of this sorry saga calls for some deep soul-searching on the part of all involved. In his chairman's statement of 1992, Sir Neville, the owner of Lancer Boss along with his brother and co-founder Trevor, was clear about the problems the group faced. "Boss's strength is its product range," he wrote. "Sales must be doubled over the next few years." Organic growth,

brand licensing and joint ventures were all possible routes. "An alliance with another manufacturer on a geographic product market share basis is also possible."

Within months, NatWest, the group's lead banker, told its corporate finance people to find a buyer for the business. Four potential bidders were lined up. The favourite, an international group apparently acceptable to all concerned, pulled out at Easter. Spurning the pleas of their British counterparts, the German banks put Steinbock Boss into receivership and handed it on a plate to Jungheinrich. Two British groups, also making due-diligence inquiries, were left in the cold. Even yesterday, one was still said to be willing to bid for the lot.

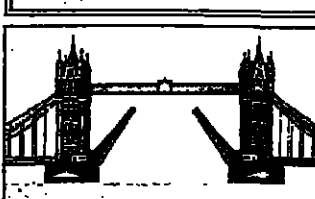
What a mess. Everyone knew the deadline. Directors and creditors alike allowed the deal to go to the wire. And when it collapsed, the directors ended up losing their company and the banking creditors will end up with a much smaller recovery than could have been achieved.

Even last week, the German banks could have put Steinbock Boss into a form of administration. Better still, British and German banks could have formed a joint panel early on, and press-ganged directors into a deal. For insiders, the writing had long been on the wall. There can be no adequate excuses. One Lancer Boss non-executive director was Mark Radcliffe, recently retired head of the CBI's national manufacturing council. Mr Radcliffe spent two years campaigning to make British industry stronger. Is this to be the result? Farewell Lancer Boss. Guten Tag Jungheinrich.

Trade gloom behind the fog

□ EVEN cigarette smokers must be jolted into alarm at the health warnings that regularly accompany statistics on trade with the rest of the European Community. Against all common sense opinion, the Central Statistical Office insisted defiantly that the new system of collection in the single European market

PENNINGTON



would provide timely and reliable figures. As one embarrassment has succeeded another, the CSO has been forced to change its stance and now matches regular disclaimers with promises that its service will soon get better. We shall see.

Meanwhile, a depressing background still emerges from the haze. The British economy has acquired a chronic trade deficit that is keeping people needlessly on the dole. Over the past decade, Britain has managed a surplus in its combined trade in goods and services in only one year — back in 1985, when banking income and oil prices were high.

The balance of payments is currently a statistic out of fash-

ion — a warning sign that it will cause trouble. During a period when the pound is floating and the Chancellor does not care much where the movement of transactions across the foreign exchanges can seem pretty irrelevant, especially when real transactions are dwarfed by speculative short-term flows. Even in such a climate, the balance of trade in goods and services remains a critical indicator of the nation's business performance. And the message is sombre.

The British economy is growing at about the same rate as the average of industrial nations. Yet even after devaluation, the trade gap on goods and services still appears to be averaging about £600 million a month.

Given the long-run picture, there is little reason to think that changes in the relative growth rates of the main world economies will improve that permanently.

Britain is regularly consuming more than it produces. To the financial market economist, that may not matter if it can easily be financed, even at the cost of slightly higher interest rates

than might otherwise be needed. To people who cannot get a job, it does matter that 1 per cent of national output is being lost through uncompetitiveness. That is why America badgers Japan over its bi-lateral trade surplus. But in Britain, as in America, the problem lies at home.

Unless the underlying economy performs better, the financial effects will also eventually bite. Floating currencies do not make trade deficits irrelevant.

Boardroom abolition

□ MORE comings and goings, with the emphasis on goings, at Aegis, the media buying company. Consultants have been appointed to review Aegis's central management structure and costs, and to "make recommendations on future staffing". But positive action is already under way. News, accompanying Aegis's 1993 results, came yesterday that the role of chief operating officer — "which was mainly concerned with develop-

ing a coherent network structure" — is to be "abolished". Exit, quite soon, Thierry Vial Collet, holder of the COO title.

Nor is the COO going alone. Mercifully, the role of chief financial officer is not being abolished but, undeniably, change is in the air. The role of CFO historically "involved the installation of new financial procedures and systems and the creation of a central accounting team". A not unimportant task but the role of CFO is to become "more oriented towards corporate issues". Exit Michel Lefebvre.

On a turnover of £2.7 billion, "underlying" pre-tax profits have crashed from £45 million to £22 million and, after taking account of £40 million worth of non-recurring costs — compared with anticipated exceptional of £14.1 million — the pre-tax loss emerges at £18 million compared with 1992's restated deficit of £11 million. Got it.

Chairman Frank Law looks to 1994 with "optimism and confidence" although no dividends will be paid (consistent with 1993) due to the cost of "further restructuring". The shares, of which Warburg Pincus (a major beneficiary of the LVT takeover) hold 33 per cent, took it on the chin at a steady 23p. Bid hopes persist, with Sir Kit McMahon peering over the parapet as a non-executive director.



Sir Peter Walters, left, and Keith Orrell-Jones said demand was up on a year ago and a price rise was holding

Buoyant Blue Circle sees benefits of cost-cutting

SOARING profits at Blue Circle, the building materials company that supplies almost half of Britain's cement, were accompanied by an upbeat statement that demand is 5 per cent ahead of last year.

The group, chaired by Sir Peter Walters, believes that last month's 4 per cent price increase will hold and that 1994 will benefit from cost-cutting measures that last year cut Blue Circle's UK cement workforce by 550, or 20 per cent. About £2 million of costs per month have been taken out of this business. Productivity has improved by 25 per cent, the company says.

Blue Circle's pre-tax profits jumped to £165.6 million in 1993, from £93.8 million the previous year, showing underlying growth of 57 per cent when exceptional costs are stripped out. Turnover increased to £1.68 billion, from £1.37 billion.

Profits in America leapt by 140 per cent, to £32.6 million. Cement volumes there were 11 per cent higher than in 1992. Chile and Malaysia were other bright spots, with cement

■ The company expects to benefit this year from the cost-cutting measures that reduced the UK cement workforce by 550 last year. Productivity has improved by 25 per cent

volumes up 15 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

The UK was flat by comparison, with volumes up by 1 per cent, but with only a "modest erosion" of the average selling price, according to Keith Orrell-Jones, the managing director. Worldwide profits from heavy building materials advanced by 42 per cent, to £137.7 million.

The home products division — primarily bathrooms and heating — was exposed to fluctuating consumer demand and fared less well. It increased profits by 7 per cent, to £64.4 million. Mr Orrell-Jones said efforts to improve prices had been hamstrung by competitors' pricing policies, and the group feared that tax rises might continue to be a brake on the division. However, he expected some improvement in the UK and continental

European home products markets, mainly in the second half of this year.

Overall, earnings per share rose to 14.5p, from 4p in 1992. The total dividend is held at 11.25p, with a 7.5p final.

Net debt was reduced to £360 million, from £405 million, and the ratio of shareholders' funds to debt was reduced from 40 per cent to 35 per cent. The results were ahead of most City expectations, and the shares added 6p, to 333p. Howard Proctor, construction analyst at Pannure Gordon, the broker, said: "They were an excellent set of figures, way above what a lot of people were expecting."

He forecast that America would overtake Chile in 1994 as the biggest overseas contributor. "I also think there is more cost-cutting to come," he said. Pannure predicts pre-

tax profits this year of £230 million, and £300 million in 1995.

Blue Circle Waste Management slid into the red, to the tune of £8.3 million, against a profit of £1.9 million in 1992. This was due to big provisions, closure costs and write-downs in the group's incineration business, which involves both operating incinerators and supplying equipment to other parties.

The contracting operations are due to cease when existing contracts are completed this year. Landfill operations performed well in 1993 and increased profits.

The picture was much better this time in the property arm, with profits of £4.8 million, compared with losses of £13.6 million.

Profits in Africa rose by 23 per cent, to just under £18 million, with Marineem shipping record volumes to its Indian Ocean markets. The group, which quit South Africa in 1992, said it had no present plans to return there.

Tempus, page 27

Hunting issues a warning

HUNTING, the aviation, defence and oil group, yesterday gave a warning that 1994 results might be affected by current low oil prices and by low activity within the aviation market (Colin Campbell writes).

Pre-tax profit for 1993 was £31.7 million (£29.2 million) after an exceptional profit of £8.1 million.

The weight of extra shares from last year's rights issue, which raised £36.7 million, leaves net earnings at 13.6p a share, compared with a restated 15.7p a share previously.

The year's dividend is maintained at 10p a share. Tempus, page 27

Laura Ashley sales rise for first time in three years

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

LAURA Ashley, which this week announced the abrupt departure of its chief executive, reported its first sales rise for three years and raised hopes of a resumption in dividends.

A nominal dividend of 0.1p is again being paid, despite a 70 per cent jump in pre-tax profits, from £1.8 million to £3 million, in the year to January 29. However, analysts are optimistic that normal dividend payments may be restored this year, in line with the company's stated policy that this would be done when a sustained level of profitability was achieved.

Jim Maxmin, who has been ousted as chief executive after

a boardroom disagreement over future investment, said the figures marked a turning-point in the group's fortunes. Delivering his last results, he said the business had begun to generate cash in the second half and the problems in the North American operation, which slumped unexpectedly into losses last year, were being resolved.

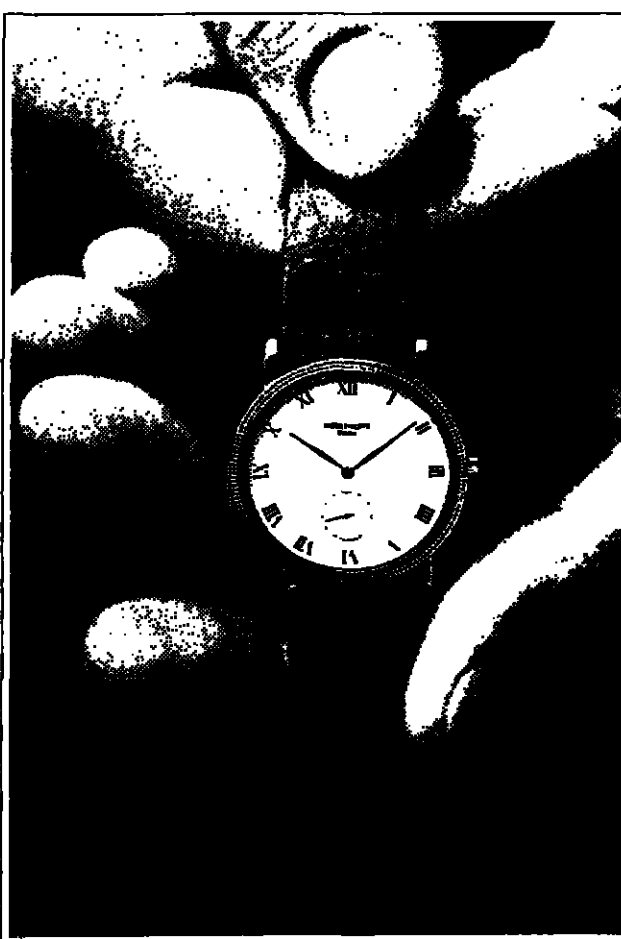
"The strategy is in place and it is working," he said. "The business is on a firm foundation and a firm footing." However, Hugh Blakeway Webb, who takes over as executive chairman, said there was "still a lot to accomplish".

Though profits rose, gross margins fell, owing to mark-

ing down of old stock in North America. Dr Maxmin said the situation in America was improving, though the operation was still in the red. Recovery this year hinged on the amount of full-price sales that could be secured. The group is currently selling only about a quarter of stock at full price, compared with an industry average of about 40 per cent.

The British operations performed well, with like-for-like sales up by 13 per cent. Margins rose as the group continued to reduce the level of discounting. Sales were also strong in continental Europe, though there was a marked slowdown in the second half, as recession started to bite.

For more than a century and a half, Patek Philippe has been known as the finest watch in the world. The reason is very simple. It is made differently. It is made using skills and techniques that others have lost or forgotten. It is made with attention to detail very few people would notice. It is made, we have to admit, with a total disregard for time. If



a particular Patek Philippe movement requires four years of continuous work to bring to absolute perfection, we will take four years. The result will be a watch that is unlike any other. A watch that conveys quality from first glance and first touch. A watch with a distinction: generation after generation it has been worn, loved and collected by those who are very difficult to please: those who will only accept the best. For the day that you take delivery of your Patek Philippe, you will have acquired the best. Your watch will be a masterpiece, quietly reflecting your own values. A watch that was made to be treasured.

Directors to leave in new Aegis shake-up

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

AEGIS Group, the media buying and planning group that was refinanced in October and whose shares traded at 23½p, is again shaking up its central management team and has appointed consultants to review its structure and costs.

Two French directors are to leave Aegis from a current board of 13. The role of chief operating officer is being abolished and that of chief financial officer recast. Any compensation or bonus payments will be detailed in the annual report.

In 1992, there was a shake-up of operating managers when the group moved from London to Paris.

Aegis, which yesterday presented 1993 results, said exceptional costs that had been expected to be £14.1 million for the year to December 31 turned out to be £40 million. The £25.9 million over-run

includes a £4.2 million provision for a fine proposed by the Conseil de la Concurrence (France's competition authority), against which an appeal has been lodged, and an additional £4.5 million to cover the full write-down of headquarters on Avenue Raphael, Paris, being vacated next month.

Dividends — last paid in 1992, when an interim 1.375p was declared — will not be proposed in 1994.

Aegis reveals a total net loss of £29 million (£28.4 million loss) for the year ended December. However, it suggests that 1993 results cannot be regarded as a clear guide to the future because of the various changes last year.

Aegis does, however, say that underlying operating profit last year was £33 million (£32 million) and that underlying pre-tax profit was £22 million (£43 million).

Shareholders to gain in BSkyB refinancing

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A £500 million five-year revolving credit facility for British Sky Broadcasting is being arranged by Toronto-Dominion Bank and Citibank NA. The two arranging banks have agreed to underwrite a total of £250 million of this amount.

The new facility will not involve any recourse to shareholders, who include The News Corporation, which also owns The Times and holds 50 per cent, Pearson (17.5 per cent), Chargeurs (17.5 per cent) and Granada (13.5 per cent). The proceeds of the facility will be used to repay the £100 million guaranteed bank loan and to reduce BSkyB's existing obligations to its shareholders. The £100 million loan was guaranteed in equal parts by Pearson, Granada and Chargeurs.

The payments to shareholders will be in addition to the £100 million that they have

received since December 1993 out of cash generated from BSkyB's operations.

The News Corporation said that it would receive £225 million in cash as a result of the refinancing. Pearson said that it would receive £81 million of cash, taking the total that it had received so far to £100 million, against a total gross cash investment of £127 million. Granada said it would receive £64 million of cash.

Pearson shares rose 5p, to 64½p, and Granada shares rose 11p, to 55p. Richard Brooke, BSkyB chief financial officer, said that the refinancing reduced BSkyB's shareholder debt to £1.1 billion, including accrued interest. He said that the refinancing, a first step in reducing shareholder debt, meant that shareholders could start to realise some of their original investment while retaining equity stakes.

PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE

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Watches of Switzerland

Selected Branches Nationwide

Competition worries send Vodafone down

WORRIES about increased competition sent shares of Vodafone, the cellular network operator, sliding on both sides of the Atlantic.

After falling \$2 overnight on Wall Street, the shares lost ground when trading resumed in London, dropping 9p, to 517p, as almost 4 million changed hands.

Later, this month a new player emerges on the mobile phone scene when the Hong Kong-based Hutchison Whampoa begins marketing its own "Orange" cellular network, which already covers about half the country.

Speculation in the City suggests that Hutchison will offer potential subscribers attractive deals, thereby increasing pressure in an already fiercely competitive market already

contested by Vodafone, Cellnet and Mercury's One2One.

The rest of the equity market spent another volatile session discounting the long-awaited quarter-point cut in German interest rates. News of the shooting-down of two US helicopters over Iraq sent equities and bonds sharply down and prompted fears of a dramatic fall when trading resumed in New York later in the day. However, with Wall Street scoring initial gains, London regained some of its poise and the FT-SE 100 index halved an earlier fall to finish 14.1 down, at 3,313.7.

Clyde Petroleum eased 1p, to 33p, on late reports that one broker had placed about 12 million shares at 30p. Early talk claimed that the shares belonged to Garry Weston

STOCK MARKET

who owns 50.1 million shares (15.7 per cent), or the Prudential Corporation with 16.2 million (5.1 per cent). By the close of business 25 million shares had been traded.

Rank Organisation was a dull market, losing 12p, to 404p, as a line of a million shares overhung the market. However, a bear squeeze hoisted Carlton Communications 14p, to 933p.

Allied-Lyons jumped 19p, to 571p, helped by a buy recommendation from Smith New Court, the stockbroker. Kleinwort Benson was also a buyer.

Barclays firmed 4p, to 520p, with Kleinwort and Hoare Govett both recommending

profits over £1.8 million to £3 million.

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement maker, added 8p, to 335p, in response to full-year figures at the top end of expectations.

Reg Vardy, the Nissan motor distributor, climbed 15p to 211p after cheering the City with the news that full-year profits for the year to April 30 would be well ahead of analysts' expectations. Brokers had been looking for up to 66.8 million.

MMI was unchanged at 29p after acquiring MMC Group, the public relations consultant, for up to £140,000.

GILT-EDGED: Gilt spent a nervous session and failed to glean any benefit from the cut in German interest rates, choosing instead to reflect on

events over Iraq. This forced up the oil price and revived worries about inflationary pressures.

Prices rallied in late trading, with the June series of the Long Gilt finishing 1/2 up, at £107 1/2, having traded as low as £106 1/2, with 92,000 contracts completed. Treasury 9 per cent 1999 finished unchanged at £111 1/2. Treasury 9 1/2 per cent 1999 firmed a couple of ticks at £108 1/2.

WALL STREET: US shares were mixed at midday, with blue chips in positive territory, primarily due to strength in oil issues. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 6.84, at 3,668.31. Oil stocks rallied early on initial reports of the Iraqi attack.

MICHAEL CLARK

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

THE POUND

US \$ 1.4770 (+0.0015)
German mark 2.5240 (+0.0038)
Exchange index 80.0 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 3313.7 (-14.1)
Dow Jones 3668.31 (+6.84)
Nikkei Avg 19937.20 (-73.21)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 5 1/4%
3-month interbank 3 1/4%
US Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treas Bills 3.57-3.56%
Long Bond 7 25/32%

CURRENCIES

New York: London: £\$ 1.4770 £\$ 1.4769
DM 1.7085 £DM 2.5238
\$Sfr 1.4445 £Sfr 2.1343
\$Fr 5.8490 £Fr 8.6300
\$Yen 104.07 £Yen 153.67
\$SDR 1.0638 £SDR 1.3041
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Foin (\$): AM 376.55 PM 377.65
Close 376.70-377.20
New York: 376.55-377.05
Comex 376.55-377.05

OIL

Brent Crude: \$14.85 per bbl (LSE)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 142.1 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987=100
* Denotes midday trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.18	1.98
Austria Sch	16.71	17.21
Belgium Fr	55.01	56.81
Canada Cdn	2.137	1.97
Cyprus Cyp	0.788	0.738
Denmark Kr	10.48	9.88
Finland Mk	8.51	8.11
France Fr	9.07	8.37
Germany DM	9.07	8.37
Greece Dr	387.00	362.00
Hong Kong \$	12.05	11.05
India Rupee	1.08	1.08
Italy Lit	240.00	234.00
Japan Yen	167.00	150.00
Netherlands Gld	0.515	0.515
Norway Kr	11.51	10.71
Portugal Esc	200.00	190.00
S Korea Won	6.00	5.10
Spain Ptas	212.00	198.00
Sweden Kron	1.25	1.25
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.08
Taiwan NTD	0.5170	0.5170
USA \$	1.57	1.45

* Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates set at close of trading yesterday.

Bus staff to gain in flotation of GRT

By Philip Pangalos

EMPLOYEES of GRT Bus Group will each be £10,000 to £16,000 better off, on paper, when the Aberdeen-based bus and coach operator joins the stock market next month.

The proposed flotation of GRT, whose services span Scotland, Leicester and Northampton, will capitalise it at between £40 million and £50 million, through a placing that will raise between £15 million and £20 million of new money.

Robert Duncan, managing director, said that proceeds will be used to repay borrowings of just over £10 million and to fund further expansion. GRT's 1,825 employees are all in its share scheme and are also being offered a free share for each one they buy, and an interest-free loan of up to £500. Employees will have to hold



Lockhead: paper millionaire

their shares for two years, and for five to enjoy tax breaks.

GRT was formed after a £5 million management-led buy-out of Grampian Regional Council bus operations in 1989. The original business had annual turnover of only £10 mil-

lion, against about £50 million now. Five managers own 51 per cent of the equity, employees 39 per cent, and 31 and Abrusts the remaining 10 per cent. The holding of managers and workers will stay above 50 per cent after the float.

Since 1989, GRT has grown organically and by acquisition, expanding from 242 buses to 723. Moir Lockhead, chairman, who began work as a bus mechanic 34 years ago, at 15, is set to become a paper millionaire in the float. Like other senior managers, he plans to keep his shares. "The management team is committed to the future," he said.

A pathfinder prospectus estimates operating profits in the year to March 26 of £5 million (£3.5 million). A full prospectus, with pricing details, is expected on April 27, with dealings in the first week of May.

RECENT ISSUES

Abrusts Hld Inc (100)	101	...	Traffmaster (130)	201	-5
Applied Distn (135)	135	...	Unipol (100)	145	+5
Barnesmed Int (100)	87	...	Wainhomes (170)	160	...
Capital Shop Ctr	222	...	Waste Recycling (50)	70	+1
Chester Water	186	...	Wellington (205)	220	...
Coal Inv Units	288	-15			
Domination Energy	12	...			
Edinburgh Inca	48	...			
F & C Inc Growth Inv Tr	493	+1			
Garmore Brit Int	104	...			
Garmore Brit Int	213	...			
Groupe Chex Grd (110)	114	-1			
House of Fraser (180)	187	-2			
Inspec (160)	202	...			
Israel Fund (51)	55	+4			
MAID (110)	74	...			
Morgan G Lat Amer (100)	93	...			
Newport (110)	100	...			
Northingham (155)	155	-1			
Parco (200)	228	+2			
Persons (160)	166	...			
Piper Euro Smaller (100)	94	...			
Piper Euro Wsm	35	...			
Proudfoot (100)	102	...			
Rugby Estates (115)	116	...			
Schroder UK Grwth	501	...			
St James Beach Hlts (120)	131	...			

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		
Allied Lyons	571p (+19p)	
Man Ltd	688p (+15p)	
Oriflame Int	273p (+13p)	
T Cowie	323p (+11p)	
Johnson Fry	298p (+10p)	
Carlton Comm	933p (+10p)	
Granada	558p (+11p)	
Reg Vardy	209p (+13p)	
Fairline Boats	380p (+20p)	
Havlock Euro	161p (+10p)	
IMI	355p (+12p)	
LWT Hidge	733p (+18p)	
FALLS:		
Meyer Int	485p (-10p)	
G Wimpey	197p (-10p)	
ADT	668p (-10p)	
Mersey Dock	480p (-15p)	
Zeneca	720p (-14p)	
Canab Pharms	464p (-10p)	
Rank Org	404p (-12p)	
Abbott Mead	635p (-20p)	
Derwent Holdings	588p (-20p)	
Estates Agency	450p (-10p)	
Br Airways	425p (-14p)	
Closing Prices Page 29		

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Lyons Units n/p (44)	44	...
Canal n/p (16)	3	...
Coal Inv n/p (65)	8	-2
DCS n/p (55)	25	...
Dale Electric n/p (55)	7	-1
Dunlop n/p (6)	4	...
Guinness Peat n/p (25)	9	...
Hollis n/p (25)	4	...
IAF n/p (33)	6	+1
LASMO n/p (105)	19	...
McCarthy & Stone n/p (58)	5	...
Mowlem n/p (10)	7	-1
Olives Prop n/p (40)	4	...
Persternum n/p (282)	7	+1
Proteus Int n/p (280)	1	...
Proteus n/p (60)	10	+1
Senior Eng n/p (115)	9	-1
Shandwick n/p (45)	3	...
Staks n/p (72)	19	+5

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):			
Dow Jones	3668.31	(+6.84)	
S&P Composite	447.07	(+0.81)	
Nikkei	19937.20	(-73.21)	
Tokyo: Nikkei	19937.20	(-73.21)	
Hong Kong:			
Hang Seng	9600.65	(-153.15)	
Amsterdam:			
Euro Index	423.69	(-0.59)	
Sydney: AO	2095.0	(-19.7)	
Frankfurt:			
DAX	2198.71	(-10.48)	

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
April 15	April 15	July 14	July 25
Call options were taken out on M4/M5: Amrad, Aveco, Brown & Jackson, Hanson, Ws, Havelock Foods, Kati Energy, NTL, Regalia, Paves, Tulio, Oll, Wellman Eng, Pave & Cals ASDA, Brown & Jackson, Euro Disney, RTZ, Tarmac.			

LONDON FINANCIAL FIGURES

Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	3313.7	3318.0	3304.0	3313.0	14968
Previous open interest: 59497					
Three Month Sterling	94.62	94.65	94.58	94.64	18914
Previous open interest: 47828					
Three Mth Eurodollar	94.62	94.65	94.58	94.64	18914
Previous open interest: 9410					
Three Mth Euro DM	94.62	94.65	94.58	94.64	18914
Previous open interest: 98872					
Japanese Govt Bond	111.26	111.27	111.26	111.26	31160
German Gov Bd Bond	94.62	94.65	94.58	94.64	18914
Previous open interest: 20910					
German Gov Bd Bond	100.08	100.12	100.08	100.10	739
Previous open interest: 5201					
Three month ECU	94.62	94.65	94.58	94.64	18914
Previous open interest: 3164					
Euro Swiss Franc	94.62	94.65	94.58	94.64	18914
Previous open interest: 47828					
Italian Govt Bond	111.26	111.27	111.26	111.26	31160
Previous open interest: 5201					

COMMODITIES

COMMODITIES

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ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): Lower production in the North Sea in May helped to firm all oil prices.

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GNL LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (June 1)

May 110.00

Jun 117.25

Jul 115.00

Aug 112.75

Vol 740

BARLEY (June 1)

May 109.00

Jun 110.00

Jul 111.00

Aug 112.00

Vol 100

HS-PRO SOYA (June 1)

May 110.00

Jun 111.00

Jul 112.00

Aug 113.00

Vol 100

POTATO (E/F)

Open Close

24.0 24.5

10.0 10.5

10.0 10.5

10.0 10.5

CRUDE OILS (\$/bbl FOB)

Brent Physical 15.30 +0.30

Brent 15 day (May) 15.10 +0.15

WTI 15 day (May) 14.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (June) 14.65 +0.15

WTI 15 day (July) 14.45 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Aug) 14.25 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Sept) 14.05 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Oct) 13.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Nov) 13.65 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Dec) 13.45 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Jan) 13.25 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Feb) 13.05 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Mar) 12.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Apr) 12.65 +0.15

WTI 15 day (May) 12.45 +0.15

WTI 15 day (June) 12.25 +0.15

WTI 15 day (July) 12.05 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Aug) 11.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Sept) 11.65 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Oct) 11.45 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Nov) 11.25 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Dec) 11.05 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Jan) 10.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Feb) 10.65 +0.15

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Freight Gas 15 Bid: 15.00 +0.20

Non CEEC 15 15.75 +0.15

Non CEEC 15 May 15.50 +0.15

Non CEEC 15 Jun 15.25 +0.15

15 Fuel Oil 15.00 +0.15

Naphtha 14.75 +0.15

WTI 15 day (May) 14.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (June) 14.65 +0.15

WTI 15 day (July) 14.45 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Aug) 14.25 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Sept) 14.05 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Oct) 13.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Nov) 13.65 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Dec) 13.45 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Jan) 13.25 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Feb) 13.05 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Mar) 12.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Apr) 12.65 +0.15

WTI 15 day (May) 12.45 +0.15

WTI 15 day (June) 12.25 +0.15

WTI 15 day (July) 12.05 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Aug) 11.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Sept) 11.65 +0.15

IPE FUTURES

GNL LOR

GAS OIL

May 147.00-147.50

Jun 148.75-149.00

Jul 147.00 Bid

Vol 151,775-22,225

BRENT 6.00pm

May 15.00-15.00

Jun 14.75-14.75

Jul 14.60-14.70

Vol 14,775-14,775

WTI 15 day (May) 14.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (June) 14.65 +0.15

WTI 15 day (July) 14.45 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Aug) 14.25 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Sept) 14.05 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Oct) 13.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Nov) 13.65 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Dec) 13.45 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Jan) 13.25 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Feb) 13.05 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Mar) 12.85 +0.15

WTI 15 day (Apr) 12.65 +0.15

WTI 15 day (May) 12.45 +0.15

UNLEADED GASOLINE

May 159.00 Bid

Jun 159.00

Jul 159.00

Vol 0

BIFFEX

GNL LOR (\$/bbl)

Apr 94 High: 1285 Low: 1280 Close: 1280

May 94 1310 1305 1310

Jun 94 1285 1280 1285

Jul 94 1165 1165 1159

Vol: 172 lots Open Int: 2990 Index 1263 +10

official (Volume prev day)

Copper Code A 5/10mm

zinc spec 10 kg drummen

Tin drummen

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Cash: 1960.0-1965.0

June 1965.0-1965.0

July 1965.0-1965.0

RUSSIAN

May 110.00

Jun 111.00

Jul 112.00

Aug 113.00

Vol 100

HS-PRO SOYA (June 1)

May 110.00

Jun 111.00

Jul 112.00

Aug 113.00

Vol 100

POTATO (E/F)

Open Close

24.0 24.5

10.0 10.5

10.0 10.5

10.0 10.5

10.0 10.5

10.0 10.5

10.0 10.5

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10.0 10.5

Questions that straddle the Clintons' finances

Wolfgang Münchau
reports from Washington
on the conspiracy
theories about how the
First Lady played the
futures market and won

Even the more outrageous conspiracy theories on the White-water scandal have not added up too much, but the spotlight on the Clintons' past business dealings established one fascinating new fact. By making a killing in the futures markets, Hillary Clinton was very much an integral part of the "decade of greed" that she and her husband criticised in the election campaign.

This week brought several new disclosures that Mrs Clinton was far more active in the commodities markets than had previously been thought, and that her apparently hands-off adviser played a far more active role than the White House had hitherto admitted.

There can now be little doubt that even by the standards of the loathed "quick-buck artists", Mrs Clinton was an extraordinarily effective investor. On the face of it, she displayed almost perfect foresight about the price movements in the market for cattle futures, one of the most volatile commodities markets during the late-1970s. Her judgment and her timing were immaculate. In the futures markets, small price changes translate into large profits and losses, which can exceed the size of the initial investment in either direction. Still, a rate of return of close to 10,000 per cent is highly unusual.

Readers, who marvel at Mrs Clinton's financial acumen, are advised here not to try it out for themselves, because it probably won't work, and is more likely to lead to financial ruin. The odds are clearly against you. The question at the heart of all this is: are the odds against you, because someone is tweaking them in favour of people like Mrs Clinton? This is where the public interest comes in.

This question cannot be answered conclusively, as yet. But questions of how a novice investor can outfox the most seasoned commodities traders, and turn a paltry investment of \$1,000 into a profit of \$99,537 within nine months are inevitable. Consider the odds: four out of five commodities futures investors lose, many lose heavily. The odds compare in scale and risk with those of gambling in Las Vegas. Mrs Clinton's decision to pull out of the market less than a year after her extremely lucky streak, on the grounds that it had all become too "nerve-racking", makes it even more mysterious. The hypocrisy is surpassed only by the humour. "Where is Hillary now that we need her?" asked a cartoon caption, depicting traders during the recent stock market slide.

On the surface, Mrs Clinton's commodities deals are unrelated to White-water, although the tax returns show she made some White-water-related interest payments to reduce her tax liability in the same year, a perfectly legal undertaking. This is the only tentative link so far, and it remains uncertain whether Robert Fiske, the special White-water counsel, will investigate this aspect of the Clintons' business dealings.

Three damaging allegations have been made in the US media against Mrs Clinton: that she was "guided" through her investments by the attorney for a company that was regulated by her husband's administration in



Did American taxpayers unwittingly hand over cash to Hillary Clinton via deals on the futures market?

Arkansas; that her broker may have misallocated winning and losing trades among his clients; and that she may have exploited a former loop-hole in the tax law, through a trading technique known as "straddling".

The possibility of straddling was raised by David Brandon, a former attorney in the Inland Revenue Service, who, in *The Wall Street Journal* wrote that "straddling" was a common tax evasion trick during the late-1970s.

Straddling means buying and selling the same futures contracts, so that any losses on one contract will be exactly cancelled out by gains in the other. The profits arise from a loophole in the tax laws. If the investor made some other profit, say a capital gain in the bond market, he can use the losing leg of the "straddle" to offset the capital gain. The winning leg, however, can be carried over into the next year, whence it can be neutralised through another straddle, and so on. The effect is that losses can thus be used to one's advantage instantly, while capital gains can be rolled over indefinitely.

The key allegation made by Mr Brandon is that straddling could have been used as a way of secretly donating money to a political party, or in this case to a political wife.

"After gains and losses were generated in the opposite sides of the straddle, the gain side would be marked to the beneficiary's account, while the loss side would remain in the account of the contributor. The contributor might even be entitled to use the loss to offset other gains. Such a transaction would be not only well hidden from govern-

ment authorities but potentially tax-deductible," he wrote. Such a technique would explain the realisation of certain gains in a client account, but for it all to work it takes a stockbroker who is willing to arrange the deal. Enter Robert "Red" Bone, Mrs Clinton's stockbroker, who in the 1970s worked for Refco, a firm of commodities brokers with a subsidiary in Arkansas. Mr Bone denies having misallocated trades, one of the key allegations against him. What is known is that in late-1979, Mr Bone was suspended from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for three years, because of "serious and repeated violations" of commodity trading rules. Refco was sued by several clients, who felt they were short-changed. None of the suits ended in a victory for the client, although some reached out-of-court settlements.

This all leads us to the remaining missing link: who in 1978 would have wanted to donate secret money to the Clinton administration in Arkansas? A possible candidate is Tyson Food, the world's largest poultry company, which was heavily regulated by the Arkansas administration, then run by Governor Bill Clinton. Among the company's former employees was none other than Mr Bone. One of the company's external lawyers was James Blair, who acted as the helping hand guiding Mrs Clinton through her investments, and placing some of the orders himself. Meanwhile, Tyson depended heavily on the regulatory goodwill from the Arkansas administration, especially over sewage. Hence, under this conspiracy theory, Messrs Blair and Bone helped

arrange a straddle to the benefit of Mrs Clinton, to the detriment not necessarily of other investors but certainly of the taxpayer. If substantiated, this would have potentially serious legal and political implications.

All this may have nothing to do with the White-water affair as such, which is about the Clintons' investment in a land venture in rural Arkansas. However, the underlying issue may well be the same. White-water is essentially about whether the Clintons have received improper funds for either private or political purposes, in this case from a savings and loan company that went bankrupt and had to be bailed out by the federal government at a cost of some \$50-60 million.

Being a beneficiary of dubious, or even illegal funds, is not a crime, since the Clintons could have benefited unsuspectingly from other people's evil motives. But who is going to believe that?

What will always count in the Clinton's favour is that charges of monetary greed are unlikely to stick, since they are one of the least wealthy first couples in living memory. They do not own their own house, and usually spend their summer holidays at some friend's place. But greed can manifest itself in a different guise. Hunger for influence and power is also a form of greed, and the Clintons cannot dissociate themselves from that too easily.

Supporters of the Clintons would argue that the allegations surrounding Mrs Clinton's investments are nothing but another demented right-wing conspiracy theory. But we are dealing here with the most plausible conspiracy theory which White-water and related incidents have thrown up. Yet, with some of these events dating back 15 years, the chances are we will never know the full truth. And, in America at least, not everyone wants to know.

TEMPUS

Bedding down values

ROCCO Forte is known to have a penchant for running marathons but last year the chairman of Forte found himself on a treadmill. Sales and profits were up in UK hotels, with increased occupancy rates, but room rates fell. In layman's terms, that means filling beds with tourists on package deals rather than high-rolling businessmen.

Profits in the hotel trade are not about filling beds but about filling guests with drink, food and other services that can be sold at a higher margin than the room itself. The UK hotel market is reckoned to be maturing, which means that the business market — the customers who spend more and pay higher room rates — is not expanding much. The same holds true in America but the area where hotel operators see real growth in yields and room rates is in continent Europe.

Curiously, the Continent is where hotel values are plummeting. Forte cut the value of its European assets by a quarter as part of a general surgical strike on the entire portfolio. Shrinking the group's assets has had the beneficial effect of putting a brake on Forte's meagre return on capital employed. At the year-end valuation, it stood at 5.3 per cent but on the previous year's property values, the company was struggling to make 4.8 per cent. But Forte's job now is about getting returns up rather than worrying about the price of bricks and mortar. With patchy recovery in the UK, the company needs higher returns and that could come from acquisitions. Gearing is down to 43 per cent and write-downs allow hotel sales in the UK. Even if the Meridian falls to come through, Forte is probably scouting Europe for another deal.

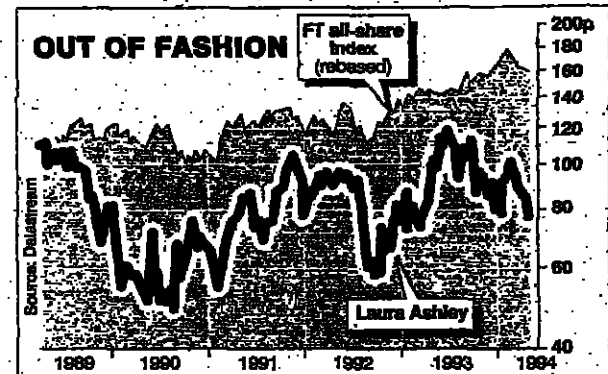
Laura Ashley

JIM Maxmin's departure may have been abrupt but he still managed to leave on something of an upbeat note. Unlike last year, there were no nasty surprises in the latest results, indeed, profits were up by 70 per cent, sales rose for the first time in three years, and the business actually started to generate cash.

But if he had managed to hang on for a little longer, he could have almost gone out with a bang. Profits in the current year (before exceptional items for directors' compensation payments) are expected to bounce sharply back to about £12 million as the problems in North America start to fade into just an unpleasant memory. That is still well short of the £20 million the company made in 1988-89 and represents a fairly low return for a retail

business with more than £300 million of sales. But it is a big step up from the results in recent years. More importantly, it is a level at which Laura Ashley can resume paying a proper dividend. Dr Maxmin, who after all has been largely responsible for the turnaround of the group, will be disappointed not to be the

one who delivers that good news. But the company is not yet in the clear. The recovery path has already been rocky and could prove so again. On a prospective price/earnings of 23 times, investors are paying a high price for a group that is barely earning a return of 1 per cent on sales of £300 million.



Blue Circle

BLUE Circle's strong rise in profits last year was more about wearing hair shirts and cutting costs than about growth in the underlying business. That is all to the credit of a company that managed to raise operating margins in the UK from 4.5 per cent to almost 8 per cent by working its assets harder.

Blue Circle's kilns are running at over 80 per cent of capacity in Britain but in America, the company is squeezing more volume out of its plants in a cement market that is outpacing Europe in recovery.

Cutting capacity served Blue Circle well in the American recession but today the group is losing out. Construction activity can be switched on quickly but rebuilding cement capacity takes time. The company will be forced to import some 200,000 tonnes of cement to satisfy American demand, cutting into its margins, while in the UK, Blue Circle is reopening a previously mothballed kiln to serve a perceived growth market in the South-East.

But the UK market is still

weak. A slow housing recovery in Britain should help the home products division to sell more boilers and bathrooms but building materials still awaits a real hike in infrastructure spend and commercial building. Cement volumes are unlikely to rise much more than 3 per cent this year, leaving the company with more than half a million tonnes of excess capacity.

Having lined up its ducks in a row, the company needs extra sales to hit its targets but at 365p, the share rating is already discounting that volume growth.

Hunting

SHAREHOLDERS who have tracked Hunting in its various guises down the years will have become accustomed to hearing "jam tomorrow" forecasts. The variation with Hunting's 1993 results is: no jam tomorrow, but perhaps there could be jam the day after next. So stand by for 1995 or 1996, rather than 1994, for the earnings boost that Hunting insists will arrive when aviation markets take off. After

charging £5.8 million of reorganisation costs, operating profits for the year are down from £34.6 million to £29.1 million on a turnover that rose from £810 million to £1.06 billion.

Most of the damage came in aviation, where profits nosedived from £11.8 million to £5 million. Defence was helped by a first-time £3.5 million contribution from a lucrative contract with the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, where orders are running at £20 million a month. Oil services lubricated the results with a rise in operating profits from £15.9 million to £17.8 million. Pre-tax profits at £31.7 million (£29.2 million) are flattered by £2.1 million of exceptional, while the weight of extra shares after the two-for-nine rights issue helped clip net earnings from 15.7p to 13.6p a share. One bright spot is the total dividend stays at 10p a share. If earnings are merely to tread water this year because of dull markets, then the prospective rating of 15.8 times after yesterday's 14p setback to 215p is still demanding. There are better bets around.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Outhwaite on record

THE Lloyd's soap opera has it all — peers and paupers, hurricanes and earthquakes, exploding oil rigs, a motor-cycling monk, and sensational High Court rulings, as we have seen this week. And in the best Hollywood style, leading players have a habit of popping up just when one least expects it. For all this, it will surprise many to hear that the 71 Lloyd's members' agents being pursued through the courts by more than 3,000 angry litigating names have adopted a somewhat strange approach to their defence. They are using as their expert witness one Richard Outhwaite, former underwriter of syndicate 317, which amassed losses of £215 million on asbestos-related claims. The syndicate held the record for the largest loss ever by a Lloyd's syndicate until Gooda Walker made the top slot. Nearly 1,000 names — Sir Edward Heath and John Riddat among them — joined forces to sue the Outhwaite agency for alleged negligence, and the result was an out-of-court settlement worth £116 million. Outhwaite's forthcoming appearance is awaited with interest. Says Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group: "We took

forward to hearing his testimony on the subject of negligent underwriting."

Gray goes global

THE City is abuzz with news that Robert Gray, well-known in international treasury circles, has quit as managing director and chairman of JP Morgan Securities to join HSBC Holding's capital market operations. Gray, 43, starts next month in the new post of managing director, global capital markets, at HSBC Markets, where he will report to Stephen Green. His brief is to build global strategy and business development. HSBC is in the process of bringing treasury operations in London, Germany and the Far East under one roof.

The legend lives on. In Calais, somebody (an English tourist?) has scribbled the word *Monty* before *Pietons* on the official signpost and added the words *Flying Circus*.

No room at the inn

THE Forte hotel group has worked hard at cultivating a friendly, caring image, as seen in a colourful television advertising campaign (that nice woman who jump-starts the rep's car). But I gather the image has fallen a bit flat in the leafy climes of Eastleigh, Hamp-



Outhwaite: £215m losses

shire, where politicians are scrambling for position before the June by-election, triggered by the death of Tory MP Stephen Milligan. It seems Labour attempted to block-book the local Forte Posthouse at a discount, only to be turned away, and election staff are having to make do with local B&Bs. It is no secret that Forte is one of the Tory party's largest corporate donors. "We do not discriminate," says a spokesman. Two of my colleagues ran into similar difficulties at the Forte Posthouse in Aylesbury, having booked a room in advance only to be told

there was no vacancy. Forte sent them to a hotel down the road — at a higher rate.

Arabian nights

STILL going strong, the Stock Exchange Dramatics Society hopes to pack 'em in next week when the curtain goes up on *Gyps and Dolls* at the Shaw Theatre on Euston Road, London, from Tuesday to Saturday. Jeremy Lewis, a director of Seymour Pierce Butterfield, the private client broker, takes the stage with a variety of talent, including Ed Cufflin, also of Seymour Pierce, and William Harrison-Wallace, a market-maker at SG Warburg Securities. Missing from the cast is Angus Blair, Arab market analyst at Baring Securities, who does much to promote the cause of City dramas, but is too busy shuffling between England, Morocco and Oman — and learning Arabic, a task that, he assures me, makes rehearsing lines look easy. Tickets for *Gyps and Dolls* can be ordered on 071-388 1394.

Tatts comes clean

WORD that Peter Davis, director-general of the National Lottery, is scrutinising bidders for undeclared criminal convictions has been greeted with mirth in Melbourne, home base of Tattersall's, the Aus-

tralian lottery contender. Tatts claims its only run-in with the law occurred when a dog belonging to an employee committed an unspeakable act in a park. A sun-bather took offence but I understand Tatts emerged with clean hands.

City kick-off

THEY probably won't hold the back pages for it, but next month will see an interesting football match at Old Trafford between a team of financial hacks, brokers, PR men and Manchester United. Unsurprisingly, Motley United, as it may come to be known, will not be trading backbeats with Canions and co. Their opponents will be a staff side from the club, led by Martin Edwards, its athletic chief executive. The match, in mid-May, is the idea of Brunswick, the club's City spin doctors. "Bearing in mind the average condition of City people, we are needing to take up a big squad," says organiser and Giggles-like winger, John Bick. "We don't think many will make the full 90 minutes." Also, in a potentially actionable reference to the City's time-hallowed sense of fair play, Bick adds: "We also think it not unlikely that the visitors may have a number of red cards by the end."

JON ASHWORTH

CEO

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POP page 32
The day the music died:
Caitlin Moran speaks for
the under-35s who
mourn Kurt Cobain

ARTS

POP page 33

Latest releases:
Nick Cave still has a lot
to say about sex, death
and religion



Father knows beast

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on the first night of *Butterfly Kiss*, Phyllis Nagy's bitter comedy at the Almeida

The first thing I remember discovering about a butterfly kiss, as the awaited eyelashes brushed against my cheek, was that it sent me into an ecstasy. The second thing is that it drove me mad with frustration, and this response seems, at one point, to be what has prompted young Lily Ross to kill her mother.

But not so fast. Lily's father is a handsome, chilling professor of lepidoptery whose sexual interest in his daughter takes a voyeuristic form: when she was 14 he encouraged his former Marine buddy to enjoy her. Sloan Ross (Oliver Cotton) is a lepidopterist for no clear reason other than to provide an excuse for the title. He does say that some Hairstreak butterflies are cannibals and, if he were right, this might imply that some New York humans also prey on one another. But he's wrong, so that takes us nowhere.

However, emotional frustration is certainly all that Lily has harvested in her dealings with him, and Cotton makes him a creepily reserved creature. Some of this reserve comes about because author Phyllis Nagy never allows him to address us. The others get to tell us some part of their feelings but Sloan's role is to look dashing and do damage. He is the villain of the piece.

In her previous play, *Welded Rising*, Nagy wrote a disconcerting account of urban fears, part homophobic, part Armageddon. The question it asked — should gay men and lesbians be more concerned than heterosexuals to counter attacks upon

them? — raised wider issues than the crime in *Butterfly Kiss*, where the killing is kept within the family. Nagy could be linking Lily's lesbian love affair to her father's bad behaviour. Her mother (Susan Brown) has also reacted badly to his neglect, and then grandmother (Mary MacLeod) can never have been sound as a moral guide. All in all, Lily's upbringing has been disastrous.

Nagy's stage directions, or Steven Pimlott's direction, place the action in a setting of germ-free surfaces, brilliant and white. But at the start of each scene the colours are red, white and blue, and there is just an inkling that a State of the Nation piece is being offered. If this is what Nagy had in mind the connections do not hold, and the play is better regarded as a psychological enquiry into a matricide, conducted in an odd but increasingly impressive manner.

For quite some time we cannot be sure that the five characters on the Almeida stage at the start are inhabiting the same space and time. What emerges is that two belong to the period before the crime, way back in Lily's childhood, while the lawyer and Lily's lover, Martha, figure in the time afterwards. Except that Martha (Debra Weston) is seen at an earlier time too, including a couple of adroitly written lesbian seductions. For this matter, the mutual seduction by Lily and the former Marine (Larry Lamb) is equally well done, charged with an eroticism that hardly dare breathe for what might then follow.

An odd feature about this particular seduction is that Elizabeth



Mary MacLeod (top) and Elizabeth Berridge in the doorway. Susan Brown in the foreground in *Butterfly Kiss*

Berridge plays her 14-year-old self exactly as she plays herself at 25. I do not know the reason for this. What is certain is that Berridge's performance is intensely appealing. With her pale, unsmiling monkey-face, and her slim body slumped at

angular ease around a chair, she signals hurt and honesty and a sort of euthanasian love.

Nagy's one-sided conversations can be annoying, but she does possess a powerful feel for dramatic revelation: quirky, economical — if

that best suits her purpose — but able to draw out the tension, as in the closing, hair-brushing scene, so steady, so purposeful, an episode that brings you to the edge of your seat, anticipating the crime we have begun to think we understand.

of the dance, to which songs by Kurt Weill (sung by Lotte Lenya and Teresa Stratas) and blues by Bessie Smith provide an obliquely searing commentary.

To underline its ubiquity Jones casts *Soon* impartially with two men, two women or a mixed couple. On Wednesday, Arthur Aviles and Eric Geiger displayed its physical and emotional qualities to profound effect.

My only complaint, as with much of this New York-based company, is that the work is so original, so gripping, that you want to see it all over again. Another visit please — and make it as soon as possible.

JOHN PERCIVAL

DANCE: Talent with a human face bounds across the stage

All shapes but only one size — big

Bill T. Jones
Sadler's Wells

hanging lamps that form the decor; the repeated snatches of text in the score by Charles R. Amirkhanian and "Blue" Gene Tyranny; the varied clothes in which the cast dress, cross-dress, dress up or undress.

Zane's ability to invest formal patterns with personal revelation is seen also in *The Gift/No God Logic*, where the sound of Montserrat Caballé singing Verdi accompanies constant groupings and regroup-

ings by four dancers: the lifts, jumps or collapses sometimes fast and sudden, the general pace steady and controlled.

Between these works, two by Jones show the dancers moving as if flayed by lacerating emotions. In his own solo *Last Night on Earth* he

speaks, sings, and mimes besides dancing with an astonishing capacity for bold, unprepared jumps. There is humour here, but there is also anger, suffering and tenderness, revealed with a rare intensity of self-exploration.

Soon is a duet about the desperate need for love and the inevitability of loss. The jokey, quirky nature of much of the dancing cannot hide either the seriousness of the underlying feeling or the sheer eroticism

Germany nil, and Italy won

Opera Ireland's spring season opens with a flourish and a failure

The Opera Ireland spring season is the first to be mounted by the company's new artistic director, Dorothea Glat. Her experience in French and German houses — she spent six years in Nice and is currently Wolfgang Wagner's assistant at Bayreuth — must have been invaluable in getting *Fidelio* and *Rigoletto* together at barely two months' notice.

Both pieces work well in a small house: indeed, the 1,100-seat Gaiety, for the time being a blessedly surtitle-free zone, is one of the prime attractions of opera in Dublin. Existing productions were rented, the Beethoven from Tours, the Verdi from Strasbourg.

However, Albert-André

Lheureux's modern-dress *Fidelio* is a horror almost beyond description. Warning bells ring in the overture, which is accompanied by a distracting dumb-show of new prisoners arriving and wardresses rummaging through their luggage. This is emphatically not what Beethoven's music is about. The high-tech prison set, all shiny lifts and strip-lighting, looks like the foyer of a 1930s picture palace in the Egyptian style, with no hint of the sunlight and fresh air hymned by the prisoners, and when Don Fernando orders every-

one to stop kneeling to him, the only people on their knees were the television crew covering this media event.

Lheureux is no director of singers. Movement on stage is unmotivated and meaningless. Louis Manikas's Pizarro is allowed to be absurdly melodramatic, and the inexperienced Anna Linden (Leonore) is given no help whatsoever. The audience laughed when she pulled a gun on Pizarro, and my heart bled for her. She has a useful top to her voice, but so little underneath as to arouse fears for her Guttrune at Bayreuth later this year.

Klaus Damm's Rocco, by turn jovial and lachrymose, gave no hint of the character's

seamy side but was roundly sung, as was Patrick Raftery's Florestan: this American baritone has recently turned tenor and his ringing, secure top should earn him a career in the German heroic repertoire.

What saved the evening from total humiliation was the brilliant young Viennese conductor, Karl Sollak. He emphasised the pungent colours of the instrumentation, coaxed attentive playing from the RTE Concert Orchestra, and together with the energetic chorus built up to a finale bursting with authentic Beethovenian ecstasy.

The *Rigoletto* was altogether more conventional — indeed, it was a huge culture shock for a UK operagoer



The fine Nicola Sharkey as Gilda and Robert McFarland (*Rigoletto*)

actually to see the piece in Renaissance sets and costumes. The production was little more than traffic-direction, which allowed one to appreciate the properly spirited musical performance under David Shaw. Nicola Sharkey's enormously appealing, sweetly sung Gilda (up to a top E, diminuendo) was partnered by the Duke of Kip Wilborn, a young American tenor with an Italianate ring, good musical instincts and a dashing stage presence. The make-up, "acting" and loud singing of Robert McFarland in the title role might have done nicely for the Verona Arena but was excessively wearisome in the confines of the Gaiety.

RODNEY MILNES

6 BAFTA AWARD NOMINATIONS

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ANTHONY HOPKINS DEBRA WINGER

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Nirvana just wasn't enough

What do you do when your dreams come true, and they're not quite like you planned? For Kurt Cobain, the pain of fame became too much, says Caitlin Moran, a grieving fan



general public consciousness. As *Nevermind* sat at No 1 on both sides of the Atlantic and the band gave endless interviews complaining about Nirvana being a public commodity, Cobain knew that he could list 20 bands who were, in his opinion, much more talented than Nirvana and yet could not have landed a No 1 album and a live tour.

EVERY telephone is engaged. Every single person I know under the age of 35 is on the phone — and when I finally get through to them, they're chain smoking and downing vodka at a vast rate of knots. The sound-track in the background is always the same — stereo playing the second track from *In Utero*, where Kurt Cobain is screaming like a man who's drunk a whole bottle of whisky and then eaten the bottle. "Go away. Go away. Go away."

Cobain sounds as if he's seen every light go out the world in total darkness, threats and a length of barbed wire twined around his guts. When *In Utero* came out a few months ago, reviewers thought it was driven by angst; a self-indulgent dismissal of his success and subsequent delinquency. Listening to it now, from inside a small fortress of empty bottles and ashtrays spilling with burnt-out tabs, it sounds like Cobain is kneeling in the fetus position, eyes screwed tight, lyric sheets thrown into a corner of the studio, and walling the only words left in his head: "Go away. Go away."

Born in 1967, Cobain was passed from relative to relative, finally being thrown out at his mother's house for smoking pot at the age of 15. He lived rough for a while, rigging a tarpaulin tent under a bridge and living off what food he could hunt or scrounge. "Something In The Way," the last track on the *Nevermind* album, describes this time: "Living off the grass and the drippings from the ceiling and it's OK to eat fish 'cos they don't have any feelings."

He could already play guitar quite well. His favourite bands were the Beatles — the most famous and popular band in the world — and obscure hardcore bands such as the Meat Puppets and X-Men. This explains why Nirvana sounded like pop music that would make your eyes bleed — the pop sensibility on *Nevermind* and the more "accessible" tracks on *In Utero* are staggering — and also underlines Cobain's problem when suddenly, in 1991, he became one of the most famous and talked-about people in rock.

In the 1980s and 1990s, very few good bands became successful. The underground was at its strongest, and even the big underground acts such as the Pixies, Jane's Addiction and Throwing Muses never really crossed over into the mainstream. This desire to express the unexpressible, perhaps, one of the reasons why he turned to heroin, a drug that turns the volume on the voices in your head down, and allows you to stumble in semi-sleep through your life. Perhaps Cobain had always thought that being rich and successful with a child he'd die for and a wife who would die in his head that was gradually absorbing the rest of his mind. The fact that it didn't may be the reason he complained so vociferously in interviews.

Plying a global pillage

Ten years ago, there were few of the digital rhythm looping and sound sampling devices that musicians now operate with more ease than their cigarette lighters. Unless you were a bloated moneybags in the millionaire class, making a repeating drum loop required miles of magnetic tape, cotton reels, knitting needles, garden shears and a substantial supply of sticky-backed plastic.

Loop Guru have a history which stretches back to this Heath Robinson era, which explains half of the name.

Nation Records, is a fluid collage of global sounds. Digital plywood this may be, but Loop Guru transcend the stigma of synthetic fakes by bringing a rare refinement to their matching of sound sources. With its shuffling drum beat and floating Arabic and Indian melodies, *Dunya* could be compared, in the loosest possible way, to the number one hits of Enigma. But Enigma have reduced the potentials of sampling to a narrow band of background muzak designed to mask awkward silences at a dinner party.

"Perfection is completely boring," says Loop Guru's Sam, usually known under the alias of Salman Gita. "For me, our music is organic."

The list of influences they include on the sleeve of their album is formidable. Sir Michael Tippett rubs shoulders with Jacques Tati, Ken Livingstone MP and Pink Floyd's former frontman, Syd Barrett. As this suggests, the final outcome owes as much to attitude as anything else. At the end of a richly packed CD, the final track runs for 21 minutes and 45 seconds. Ken Livingstone would approve, surely.

DAVID TOOP



Wigged up and wiggling out, Nirvana's Kurt Cobain in a fret-burning, plank-spanking frenzy on stage at the Reading Festival in 1992

To know you have everything and it still isn't enough is a debilitating knowledge. To know, on top of that, that a sizeable part of the world's youth either looks to you for guidance, or would like to be in your shoes, just adds salt to the wounds.

People with a stable upbringing would struggle to cope with the course Cobain took after *Nevermind*. He struggled against the tide for a while, until he was swallowing three parts sea water to one part air; and then decided to bow out.

Compared to the death of John Lennon, or the unfortunate Sid Vicious, press coverage of Cobain's suicide seemed quite low-key, and slightly confused. The Teletext obit-

ary said that Cobain "remained largely unknown to those over the age of 35". It's a shame for you "over the age of 35", and a shame for us "under the age of 35". For the Kids it means we don't get the chance to mourn Cobain properly. And for the Adults it means you missed out on the fire-burnished, fractured beauty of a furious recording career.

For someone who rubbed verdigris on Rock Music so it became shiny and beautiful again; for someone who brought (ditch alert) so much to other people's lives, it's heart-breaking to know Cobain's own life was so painful. Wherever he is now, I hope he's finally stopped hurting. What more could I say?

LONDON

LES PARENTS TERROIBLES: Seen Mothers dress a splendid cast for Cocca's drama of stifling family love. Sheila Goh, Frances de la Tour and Alan Howard play the odd generation. Lynsey Baxter and Jude Law the young ones. National (Lytchton), South Bank SE1 (071-429 2222). Previewed tonight, 7.30pm. Opens April 21, 7pm. (2)

HUTH WATERMAN: The British violinist repeats her innovative New York series of Music Takes! This Sunday afternoon and night, Waterman presents an informal exploration of what music says — what makes it compelling and challenging — and how it says it. She spotlights Shakespeare's *Violin Sonatas* and includes a complete performance of Sonatas in D for violin and piano. Op 12 No. 1. With Michael Coughlan, Purcell House, South Bank SE1 (071-429 8800). Sun, 3.15pm.

DIMITY BASHKOROV: The renowned Russian pianist makes his Wigmore debut as part of the International Piano Season. His programme includes Schubert's *Sonata in C minor* Op 10 No. 3, Chopin's *Sonata Op 10 No 3* and Liszt's *Sonata in B minor* Op 10 No 3. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street W1 (071-429 2141). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. (2)

BRITISH MUSEUM: This weekend is the last chance to see two very different but equally fabulous exhibits. *Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Animals* is a show of great range drawing largely on the Museum's own extraordinary collection of Indian artefacts. *Prehistoric Animals* is a gift from the Soviet Museum collection, exposing to the world in all their splendour, amongst

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kate Anderson

others, Buddhist paintings. Tibetan vases figures in clay, and ceramics connected with the couple's secondary obsession, the Japanese tea ceremony. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-426 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm. Sun 2.30pm-5pm. (2)

ELSEWHERE

LEICESTER: A premiere tonight for Jonathan Burrows, one of the most interesting of young British choreographers. He brings together a group of dancers with a vast range of backgrounds and includes Burrows' fascination with the way different lighting can change the look of dance. Phoenix Arts, Newmarket Street (0333 554854). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. (2)

HALFPRICE: The first annual Young Musician's Chamber Music Festival, starting this weekend, is a most welcome chance to hear ensembles from all seven of the major music colleges in the country. Concerts, performance workshops and masterclasses with the Stroud Quartet. Square Chapel Centre for the Arts, Square Road (0222 349422). Tonight, 8pm. (2)

LEEDS: Phelim McDermott and Julian Coughlin share their love of the grotesque to their own version of *The Handmaid's Tale*. Features include a chorus of gargoyles. Said to be a long way from the usual pillow-up-the-jacket presentation. Leeds Playhouse, 100-102 The Arcade, Leeds LS1 (0113 244 0000). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Sun, 2.30pm. (2)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

■ **BUTTERFLY KISS**: Steven Pridmore directs a new one from Phyllis Nagy. See review, page 31. Apollo, Almeida St, N1 (071-339 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Sat, 4pm. Unpr April 30. (2)

■ **THE CASE OF REBELLIOUS SUSAN**: Excellent revival of Arthur Jones's daring comedy of 1884 in which a wife is prepared to commit adultery because her husband does. Orange Tree, Clarendon Street, Richmond (01-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat, Sat, 4pm. (2)

■ **THE CHERRY ORCHARD**: The mighty May Theatre of St Paul's begins a six-week tour of the UK with its plays from their repertoire, beginning with Chekhov's text. In Russian with English subtitles. Lyric, King St, Manchester, W6 (01-741 2511). Tonight-Sun, 7.30pm; mat, Sat, 2.30pm. (2)

■ **DEAD FUNNY**: Tony Johnson's complex (perhaps too much) web of connections between sexually abused children and their mothers. With Zoe Womblesley and David Hume. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-436 8887). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat, Wed and Sat, 3pm. (2)

■ **GHOST FROM A PERFECT PLACE**: New play by John Wood, set in the East End. John Wood plays a Sussex gangster returning to a very different world. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Cinema, NW3 (071-222 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Sat, 4pm. Unpr May 7. (2)

■ **NOT SHOE SHUFFLE**: Hi Australian musical about sex up

dancing brothers and their temple festival. Subtitled *Love and very sick*, with lots of Big Band music. Queens, Shaftsbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Wed and Sat, 3pm. (2)

■ **LADY WINDEMERE'S FAN**: Rough Magic celebrate their tenth year by bringing the award-winning White production over from Dublin. The musical politics are said to be translated for today with a sprinkling of cross-dressing. Theatre, 280 Albion High St, NW6 (071-222 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Sat, 4pm. (2)

■ **SUNSET BOULEVARD**: Reopened with Betty Buckley and John Savage. Sunset and new material brought in from the Los Angeles production. Adelphi, Strand WC2 (071-344 0055). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat, Thurs and Sat, 3pm. (2)

■ **A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY**: Helen Mirren and John Hurt head a great cast for Turgenev's classic of love, passion and self-deception. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-887 1115). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, Thurs and Sat, 3pm. (2)

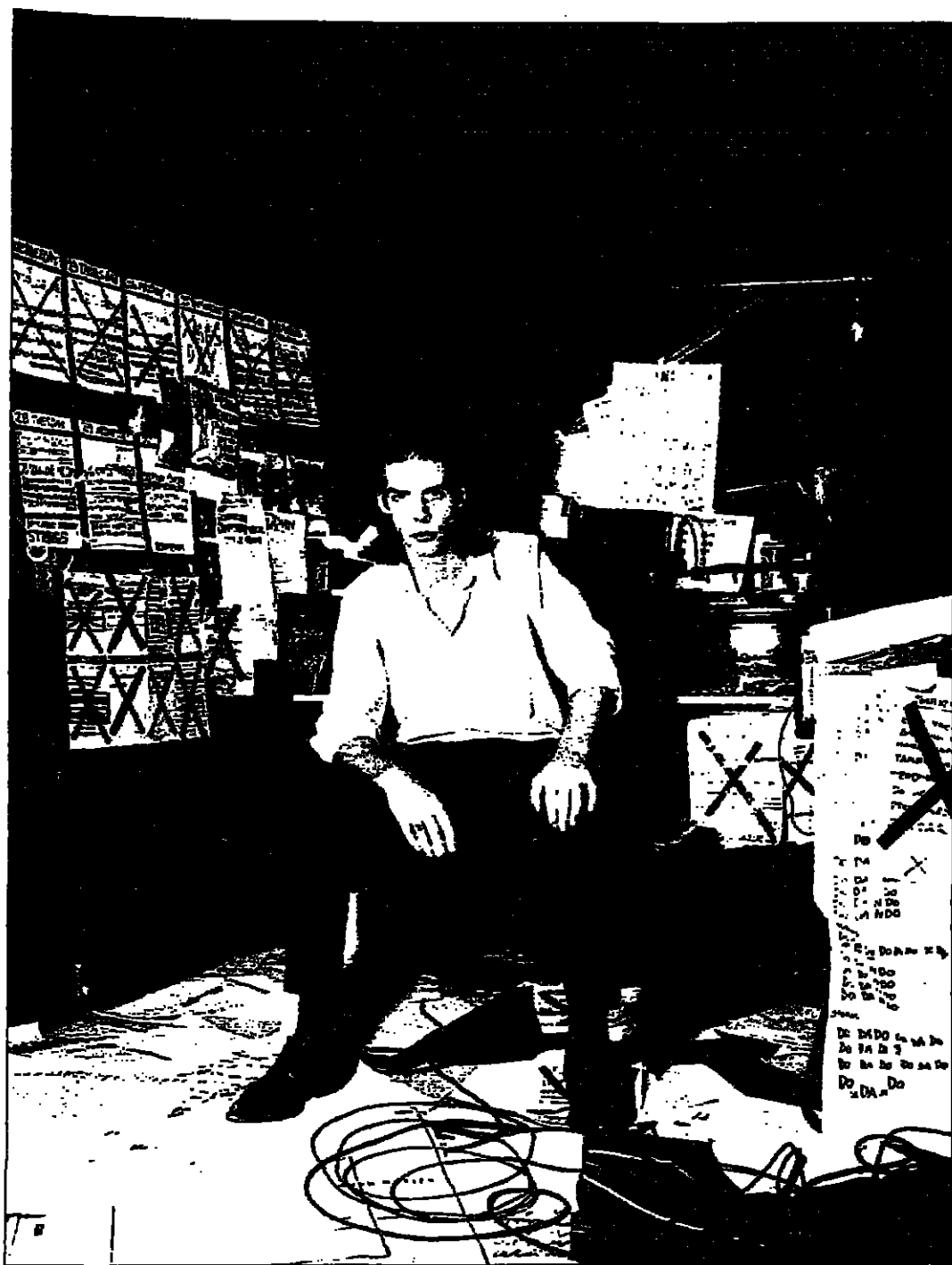
■ **THE MERCHANT OF VENICE**: David Calder faces Penny Downie over the scales in David Threlkeld's acclaimed production from Stratford. Barbican, St. Street, EC2 (071-596 5551). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat, Thurs and Sat, 3pm. (2)

■ **TRAVESTIES**: Stopper's dossier, transferred. Antony Starr is the Consul playing lost and loose with memory. Swanley, Strand, WC2 (071-429 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, Sat, 2.30pm. (2)

■ **LONG RUNNERS**

■ **THE ABSOLUTE TURKEY**: Globe (071-494 5055). (1) April 15. (2) April 16. (3) April 17. (4) April 18. (5) April 19. (6) April 20. (7) April 21. (8) April 22. (9) April 23. (10) April 24. (11) April 25. (12) April 26. (13) April 27. (14) April 28. (15) April 29. (16) April 30. (17) May 1. (18) May 2. (19) May 3. (20) May 4. (21) May 5. (22) May 6. (23) May 7. (24) May 8. (25) May 9. (26) May 10. (27) May 11. (28) May 12. (29) May 13. (30) May 14. (31) May 15. (32) May 16. (33) May 17. (34) May 18. (35) May 19. (36) May 20. (37) May 21. (38) May 22. (39) May 23. (40) May 24. (41) May 25. (42) May 26. (43) May 27. (44) May 28. (45) May 29. (46) May 30. (47) May 31. (48) June 1. (49) June 2. (50) June 3. (51) June 4. (52) June 5. (53) June 6. (54) June 7. (55) June 8. (56) June 9. (57) June 10. (58) June 11. (59) June 12. (60) June 13. (61) June 14. (62) June 15. (63) June 16. (64) June 17. (65) June 18. (66) June 19. (67) June 20. (68) June 21. (69) June 22. (70) June 23. 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POP ON FRIDAY: Nick Cave is early for his own funeral... Verve celebrates 50 hot years... Jah Wobble invades the heart



Nick Cave, already inspiring a younger generation, still has a lot to say about sex, death and religion

Plight of the living dead

NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS

Let Love In
(Mute STUMM 123)

LOOKING more like a werewolf the older he gets, Nick Cave is turning out to be one of those artists whose work provides a touchstone for the next generation. Younger bands such as Tindersticks and the Wolfgang Press have modelled their music on Cave's ramshackle, gothic style, while echoes of his grumbling, zombie-bluesman voice can be heard in acts as diverse as Canada's wry pop sensation Crash Test Dummies and Boston's blues-noir trio Morphine.

But Cave himself is still only 34, and evidently has plenty left to say. His ninth album, *Let Love In*, is a doomy but vibrant collection of songs, guided by Cave's taut, narrative style and full of melodramatic flourishes. It explores the usual themes of sex and death, from the quietly sinister elegy "Nobody's Baby Now" to the bestial roar of "Jangling Jack".

Perverted religious imagery and tales of casual violence are underscored by twanging guitars, clanging church bells and backing vocal arrangements that sound like a choir of fallen angels calling out from the pit. Cave's deft poetic touch and bleak sense of humour make common cause on "Lay Me Low", a funeral ode which begins: "They're gonna lay me low/They're gonna sink me in the snow/They're gonna throw back their heads and crow/When I go". It gradually winds itself up to a splenic climax as he conjures ever more lurid fantasies about the aftermath of his death. The longest, wildest wake in history has already begun.

JIMI HENDRIX

Blues
(Polydor 521 037)

WHY do you suppose that until now certain recordings by Jimi Hendrix of blues standards such as

"Born Under A Bad Sign"

(popularised by Albert King and Cream), "Mannish Boy" (Muddy Waters) and "Bleeding Heart" (Elmore James) have remained unissued during the 25 or so years since they were made? Could they have been kept off the market by a surplus of new Hendrix songs? Or was there a lack of demand for previously unissued Hendrix recordings? Or maybe there was a shortage of pressing time at the factory?

The hard, but blindingly obvious truth, is that the recordings in question were not very good in the first place, and no amount of creative marketing, artful packaging around a blues theme or sheer wishful thinking is going to make them sound any better now.

It is not that Hendrix was unable to play and sing songs well, rather that these performances are culled from the loosest of studio jams, accidentally captured by tape machines that should not have been switched on. Hendrix was a thrilling blues guitarist (and much more besides) but *Blues* is a mess of hesitant intros, fumbled changes, the sketchiest of vocals (no vocals at all on "Born Under A Bad Sign") and hastily improvised sequences. It is the musical equivalent of editing together some grainy old footage of Björn Borg knocking up against a wall and calling it *Strokes*.

Along with substandard rarities

such as "Jelly 292" and "Once I Had A Woman", there is ballast in the form of alternative recordings of "Voodoo Chile" and "Red House" (two versions), songs which even the most committed Hendrix fan must be weary of paying out for by now.

The sleeve notes may be of passing interest to blues and/or Hendrix aficionados with a train-spotter mentality, and of course elements of Hendrix's unique artistry do emerge. But to present such a heap of scrap as an official "new" release serves to diminish rather than enhance his legacy.

DAVID TOOP AND MAX EASTLEY

Buried Dreams
(Beyond R24CD5)

DAVID TOOP and Max Eastley are a pair of sonic textualists who first appeared on record together, courtesy of Brian Eno's Obscure label, in 1975. Returning to the fray just when recent albums by the Orb, Aphex Twin and others have pushed the ambient revolution to the brink of mainstream acceptance, the pair could not have timed their belated follow-up better.

Eastley is renowned for his sound sculptures and installations at technology exhibitions around the world, while Toop, whose accompanying CV scrupulously avoids any reference to his work as a contributor to *The Times*, has worked with artists ranging from

jazz heavyweight John Zorn to electro-pop eccentrics the Flying Lizards.

Buried Dreams is a journey to the cutting edge of ambient and beyond. Birds twitter shrilly, pebbles rattle on glass river beds, panpipes whistler from deep within a ghostly jungle; a cosmopolitan babble of voices ricochets round an airport lounge; and rhythms only ever coalesce with the randomness of raindrops hitting a roof. Or at least that is what it sounds like.

Painstakingly assembled (the sleeve design and packaging is a minor work of art in itself) over a period of three years from a vast array of natural and artificial sources, these impressionistic collages of sound stimulate the imagination while testing the very notion of what constitutes music.

PETER FRAMPTON

(Relativity 475876)

PETER Frampton can still lay claim to the best-paid nights' work in the history of rock for the gig at the Winterland in San Francisco which generated his double-album of 1976, *Frampton Comes Alive!* Its sales tally is now said to be in excess of 30 million copies.

But having ushered in an era of middle-of-the-road rock, literally overnight, Frampton's mercurial talent went out of fashion almost as quickly.

His new record, after a long absence, is a straight, sturdy and at times soulful collection of soft rock tunes, which will do little to restore his fortunes. It includes the last recorded performance by the late Steve Marriott, who duets with his old Humble Pie buddy on a mellow rocker called "Out Of The Blue", boasting a riff lifted clean off the peg from the Motown archives. Although pleasant enough of its kind, it is an album which lacks an edge of any sort.

DAVID SINCLAIR

A holy racket

Jah Wobble
Jazz Café, NW1

SIXTEEN years ago, Jah Wobble, then 18, was responsible for the uncompromisingly heavy dub sound of Public Image Ltd. John Lydon's first post-Sex Pistols foray. Today Wobble, whose real name is John Wardle — is all but lost in the sands of time, has welded his subterranean bass to a vital hybrid of world music to create an antithesis to punk's nihilistic leanings.

If proof be needed, imagine the Pistols opening a set with a song entitled "I Love Everybody". And the audience, who had packed the club for a concert which anticipates Wobble's forthcoming album, *Take Me To God*, loved him back. Wobble, clad in sombre black and a Spanish hat, beamed as his ten-piece invaders of the Heart picked up his rhythm. Abdel Ali Slimani's sobbing Algerian *râi* vocals spiralled around and Wobble leant back into the beat.

This extraordinarily potent mix is best understood if Wobble is viewed as a catalyst in mixing up some weird chemistry. To this end, the Invaders — normally a quartet comprising bass plus drummer, Jaki Liebeck, with Justin Adams and Mark Ferda on guitars and keyboards — took

up as modest a position as the cramped stage allowed.

The ground shuddered and the air beat with the fluttering vocals of the three female singers. *God* is Wobble's most far-reaching album, but it will never be noted for run-of-the-mill lyrics. The title track revolves around a line about an "astonishingly accomplished avatar", which Wobble sings in his chirpy cockney. Columbia's darling, Ximena Tascon, sang in Spanish, *Slimani* in Arabic and Najma Akhtar — an Indian classicalist with a voice of transcendental beauty — in Urdu.

Anneli Drecker may not have sung in her native Norwegian, but her voice was a dead ringer for that of Sinéad O'Connor, who gave Wobble's previous album, *Rising Above Bedlam*, such power and grace. Spike Tee, a reggae singer whose job involved taking over the vocals which Chaka Demus & Pliers and the Cranberries' Dolores O'Riordan deliver on *God*, rapped, toasted and sang through the two-hour set. Christina, an Egyptian dancer, interspersed some sinuous belly moves.

It was heady stuff. Few cockneys ever rock the casbah; even fewer write music so capable of knocking on the gates of heaven.

LOUISE GRAY

JAZZ: In New York, the stars come out to celebrate a pioneering record label

Verve in a curate's egg



Roy Hargrove gave a dazzling solo in a salute to Gillespie

Fifty years ago an idealistic young impresario, Norman Granz, staged the first of a series of ecstatic all-star shows at the Philharmonic Auditorium in Los Angeles. Jazz At The Philharmonic, as the events came to be known, developed into a lucrative touring showcase, which helped set the pattern for the sort of concert-hall jazz which has, for better or worse, become the norm today.

The success of JATP gave Granz the means to launch Verve, one of the most popular jazz labels, which provided a home for performers from Ben Webster to Oscar Peterson and, most famously of all, Ella Fitzgerald. Jazz is a sleeker, more cosmopolitan creature than it was in that innocent era, but some of the buccaneering spirit of the pioneering days was revived at Carnegie Hall last week in a three-hour spectacular organised by Verve, still a thriving concern.

Unfortunately, any extended bouts of spontaneity were ruled out by the presence of television cameramen recording the event. With dozens of guest artists taking part and frequent delays for set changes, the music itself was dispensed in brief segments which gave the musicians little time to build up genuine momentum. Still, the contrast between the different generations gave the performances

an added sense of occasion. It is not every day that you see Pat Metheny in a tuxedo, let alone jamming with Roy Hargrove, Jackie McLean and the Brazilian songwriter Antonio Carlos Jobim.

Most of the strongest sequences came in the first half, notably those involving the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, a heavyweight big band featuring the reassuring figures of Jerry Dodgion and Frank Wess in the reeds section. Dee Dee Bridgewater, placed surprisingly low on the bill, confirmed her position as the heir to Ella Fitzgerald with a sensual and charismatic display on "Shiny Stockings" and "Just One Of Those Things", with the trombonist J. J. Johnson — a veteran of the early years of JATP — adding a suave obbligato.

The indefatigable musical director, Don Sickler, ensured that the big band was swinging with maximum energy on the screaming Afro-Latin standard "Manneca", played as a tribute to Dizzy Gillespie. The young trumpeter Roy Hargrove seized the opportunity to deliver a glittering solo which piled one improbable climax on top of another. Now that Wynton Marsalis has largely dropped out of the pyrotechnics trade, Hargrove seems set to dominate the field.

Jimmy Smith brought the first half to a storming conclusion with "Walk On The Wild Side" and a recreation with Kenny Burrell of the organ and guitar double act with Wes Montgomery. The mini-tributes were snuffed throughout the evening, and introduced with video clips of vintage performances. Bud Powell, Art Tatum and Oscar Peterson were among those honoured in cameos by the Japanese virtuoso Yosuke Yamashita, Hank Jones and the young Peter Dinklage.

Quite what that introspective master Bill Evans would have made of Herbie Hancock's glib, ostentatious rendering of "Turn Out The Stars" is another matter.

Hancock, recently signed to a Verve subsidiary, was the villain again later during a preview of his forthcoming album, which came across as an opportunistic amalgam of rap, funk and lightweight acoustic jazz.

The homage to Miles Davis's jazz-rock period, with Hancock, McLaughlin and the saxophonist Gary Thomas leading a truncated version of the masterpiece "It's About That Time", was rather more persuasive.

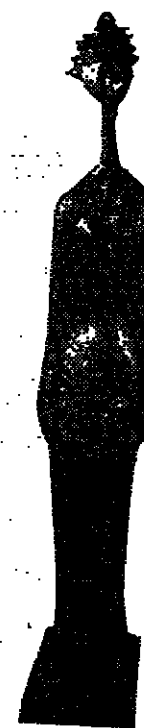
The evening ended with a frenetic massed jam session on "Now's The Time", with Jackie McLean and Betty Carter among those jostling for a chorus. Contests like these were the very stuff of the old JATP, to the dismay of critics appalled by the spectacle of young bobbysoxers cheering on their favourite musicians. When *The New Yorker* ran an early feature on the phenomenon back in the 1950s, it came with the barbed headline "Pandemonium Pays Off".

Earlier on this balmy evening, it was the quieter moments — particularly the bossa nova section introduced by Jobim — which lingered longest in the memory. Even in his heyday, Jobim was not the greatest of pianists or singers, but his set was a triumph of pure feeling over technique.

Metheny enhanced the mood when he joined in on "How Insensitive", a ballad which has found a place in his repertoire. And Joe Henderson produced a quiet, shimmering solo — closely modelled on Stan Getz's original performance — on "Desafinado". The subject of a publicity campaign portraying him as a latter-day Rollins, Henderson was in exceptionally self-effacing mood all night. This one solo alone made the evening worthwhile.

CLIVE DAVIS

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INFOTECH



New digital technology could threaten the profitability of sales and rentals of videos because pirated copies would be of much better quality

Digital videos on the way

While Britain has been focusing on how to control the purchase and renting of violent videos the world's electronic industry has been concentrating on how videos can join the digital revolution.

About 50 companies, including some of the world's leading names, met in Tokyo yesterday to agree standards for a digital video cassette recorder (VCR) for the home.

The advantages of digital VCRs will include better picture quality, smaller cassettes and the ability to make perfect copies. The move to digital will be equally important for the camcorder market.

Apart from better picture recording, the ability to copy tapes repeatedly with almost

Suppliers want a standard format, Matthew May says

no loss of quality will make it far easier for camcorder owners to edit their tapes.

Consequently, there will be two new types of video cassette for digital VCRs. A standard version, about two-thirds the size of existing VHS tapes, will be able to record for four-and-a-half hours while the camcorder version will be half the size of a VHS tape and record for one hour.

Digital VCRs will also be a better match for future television, which will process signals in digital form. But persuading consumers to upgrade their existing systems to digital versions will not be easy. By and large we are generally happy with the qual-

ity of VHS pictures considering the recorders and tapes are cheap. An attempt to introduce higher quality "super" VHS systems got only minute sales.

But the hope of the electronics industry is that in a few years people might be persuaded to move from VHS to digital VCRs in the same way vinyl LPs have been replaced by the compact disc.

Hence the determination by manufacturers to avoid the damaging sort of format war that beset the original video cassettes. Consumers who chose the Betamax video cassette format lost out as VHS became the *de facto* standard around the world.

Now consumers are more

wary. For example, there are two competing formats for digital audio systems — the Digital Compact Cassette and the Minidisc — unlike compact discs both can record as well as play back music.

Along with high prices, this confusing choice is given as a major reason for their disappointing sales. If one format does take off who wants to be left owning the one that didn't?

Engineers say virtually all technical problems have been solved for the first-generation digital VCRs. Computer companies such as IBM and Apple were also involved in yesterday's meeting, along with Sony and Matsushita.

Once digital, VCRs will be

able to store large amounts of computer data as well as television pictures and so could, for example, be used to make back-up copies of the information stored on a computer's hard disc.

Pioneering companies may rush out the first digital camcorders or VCRs next year. But prices will be high — about £2,000 for the earliest models. Now the concern is that sales of pirate video versions of popular films such as the Disney classics will increase if digital VCRs become common as purchasers could ensure good quality.

Dial a karaoke

IF YOU do not have your favourite karaoke song on a tape or disc do not worry — a Japanese company says you'll soon be able to order it up via telephone.

With the Pioneer karaoke-by-phone system, aspiring singers won't need to buy and store individual songs. Instead, they can push a few buttons and send their requests by telephone line to a central computer, which in turn will transmit the words and music information back to the singer's equipment. Pioneer says it hopes to sell 50,000 in the first two years.

Bloc lifted

THE control of high technology products with potential military applications is to become largely an individual national responsibility following the dissolution of Comcom, the Cold War body set up to prevent the Communist bloc from acquiring advanced technology. A new organisation to be set up by October will leave national governments to take the final decision on exports.

Comcom was seen as having become an anachronism and was preventing the former Warsaw Pact countries from acquiring the technology they need to build successful market economies.

BBC networks

The BBC is to start a bulletin board system from May 11.

ONLINE

DID YOU KNOW YOUR LINE IS FAULTY?



Called Auntie, the network will give members access to back up materials for BBC programmes and offer electronic debates with programme makers.

Costs are £25 to join plus £12 per month and the price of telephone calls to one of six connecting points in large cities.

The service, which will be open only to those over 16, will include access to Internet, the vast computer information network which allows users to consult information databases and send electronic mail.

God's database

IBM has announced a pilot project designed to allow scholars and teachers from around the world to have electronic access to the resources of the Vatican Library.

The company plans to help the library scan its holdings, including artwork and books, into computers that can be reached by others.

It also plans to convert the library's pre-1985 catalogue of nearly 2 million cards into an electronic database accessible on the Internet network.

The Vatican Library, one of the oldest in the world, contains more than 1 million books, including 8,000 published during the first 50 years of the printing press.

Nazis on the line

GERMAN television reported on Monday that large quantities of neo-Nazi literature denying the Holocaust ever happened had been filed into Internet, the world's largest computer network.

Police say that German neo-Nazis, barred by law from openly selling books denying the Nazi campaign of genocide against the Jews, have been using local computer networks to spread their literature, advertise protests and swap racist computer games.

China plugs in

WU JICHUAN, China's telecoms minister, has unveiled plans to build two nationwide digital information networks to hasten economic construction.

But he gave no indication that Peking would lift its ban on foreign investment in China's rapidly growing communications system.

Nor did he indicate whether China planned to ease recently enacted laws to place curbs on who should be allowed to use its fledgling "information superhighway" and what they may use it for.

Compaq expands

COMPAQ Computer is to invest 150 million Singapore dollars (£64 million) to double the size of its Singapore factory.

A way to hit the sack buying IBM

IF YOU have ever wondered what a bedroom from IBM might look like, just such a bizarre opportunity will be possible from August. And before you ask, this item has not been held over from April 1, Matthew May writes.

Bob Payton, an American, has decided that an "IBM

themed bedroom" is just what guests at his country hotel in Stapleford Park, Leicestershire, have been missing.

IBM's rivals would no doubt claim that the furnishings should be smart but boring with lots of blue. In reality, the room will be rather more practical, including a

"home office" of personal computer and other equipment though it will also "cleverly include a pictorial interpretation of the IBM logo in the decor".

Guests will have access to a 24-hour IBM telephone helpline though it is not clear whether this is to assist them

with computer problems or to provide counselling to those who cannot stand the decor.

The room will be included in the redesign of a 16th-century cottage next to the existing hotel. The room, says IBM, will shape its image as "dynamic, innovative and stylish with a sense of humour".

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A suite to bring comfort to the office

The idea of mix and matching systems has been abandoned. Pat Sweet reports

Software for personal computers used to be expensive to buy and difficult to operate. Not any more. Technological advances — most notably the arrival of graphic-based systems such as Windows — have made packages simpler and easier to use.

A report by Ovum, the research group, predicts that within the next two years the Windows slice of the market will be 75 per cent as more software publishers bring out packages designed to take advantage of its graphical nature.

While suppliers are keeping the price of new Windows-based software low in order to attract the next generation of users, the prices of older-style DOS products are also being cut. It is now possible, for example, to buy a copy of Borland's Quattro Pro spreadsheet for £50.

In many instances, recommended retail price lists have been abolished since different outlets such as computer superstores, dealers and mail-order specialists have routinely been offering discounts on software of up to 60 per cent.

David Godwin, sales and marketing manager for Word Perfect, says: "In the past three years, software prices have fallen by 50 per cent and the trend is still downwards."

However, despite an abundance of high quality packages with sophisticated features for less than £100, larger companies are now less likely to experiment with different options than they have been in the past.

Richard Price, IT partner with KPMG Management Consulting, says: "The reason for low prices and the move towards suites of software is really that software publishers are going for market share in quite a cynical way."

"Companies used to evaluate packages regularly and hope to keep leap-frogging ahead with new technology, but now they are coming down in favour of one publisher."

By standardising in this way companies gain several advantages, including reduced training and support costs and greater flexibility in allocating staff since all employees are familiar with the same software.

These were some of the factors which influenced WS Atkins, an engineering consultancy, in its decision to opt for Word Perfect as its word-processing standard. The company works on dozens of projects a year and produces a wide variety of documents, from standard letters to complex proposals and highly technical engineering reports.

"We needed a word processor which was versatile and was easy to use for groups of people who have very diverse word processing requirements," says Carole Tucker, the company's training officer for information systems.

"In a large organisation people need to share documents, which you can do when you've standardised on a particular package, but which is

much more difficult if you have to go through a document conversion process to another package, and where there may be incompatibilities in the way the software functions."

Suppliers have responded to this desire for more standardisation with the introduction of "suites" of software which

combine word processing, spreadsheet, database and graphics applications in a single offering.

Leading contenders include Microsoft Office, Lotus SmartSuite and an amalgamation of Word Perfect and Borland Office products.

Romtec, the research company, believes that nearly 40 per cent of today's market is

for suites compared with just 5 per cent a year ago. Suites can offer purchasers better value for money while suppliers also point to the convenience of dealing with a single source of supply and no integration problems.

"The analogy is with hi-fi. Do you want the standard stack system, or do you buy all the components separately?" asks John Masters, marketing manager for Lotus, which expects nearly half of its software sales to be for suites this year.

"The idea of mix and matching systems has been abandoned. Most companies are looking at their overall product strategy for the next three to five years and deciding which one software supplier to go with."

One result of this approach is that software suppliers expect to see much more of their future business coming from upgrades rather than new



Richard Price says companies are now deciding in favour of one publisher

Companies are buying one copy of the software plus a paper licence to make copies

Something everyone with Windows should look into.

Why not try before you buy software?

The honesty of consumers is a costly issue for the industry

According to the software industry, more than half of the applications on British computers are illegal. Software piracy is a serious issue for the industry, but there may be a more innocent explanation for some of those illicit applications sitting on our personal computers. Perhaps people simply want to try something out before they buy it.

Demonstration copies of software — usually disabled for saving and printing files — used to be commonplace in personal computing. But that was before Microsoft Windows arrived and inflated the size of everyday applications.

When word processors occupy as much as 20 megabytes of hard disc space and 12 or more installation floppies, the economics of sending out demonstration copies becomes unworkable.

What few demo discs are issued are usually not demonstrations at all but a simple computer slide show from an application given away free with computer magazines.

With more and more software sales going through mail-order companies and the decline in traditional computer dealers, seeing an application in action before you part with your cash can be difficult.

Help is at hand, however, from a few companies. Last year, Apple released an innovative CD-Rom software sampler which contained a wide variety of working applications with a few features disabled.

The disc was free but if you liked the software you could phone the distributor, buy the package with a credit card and, in return, receive a code to unlock the full package from the disc and, through the post, the manuals.

The idea has now caught on with other publishers. This month's issue of PC Maga-

zine has a free CD-Rom containing demo copies of mainstream packages that have won awards from the magazine. These include Borland's Paradox database, the spreadsheet 1-2-3 and word processor Ami Pro from Lotus, IBM's OS/2 operating system and Novell's Netware.

There is a rather large caveat in most of the CD-Rom software distribution systems produced so far, however. Software publishers are very wary about being seen to sell their products at a discount directly to the public; distributors and mail-order companies take a dim view.

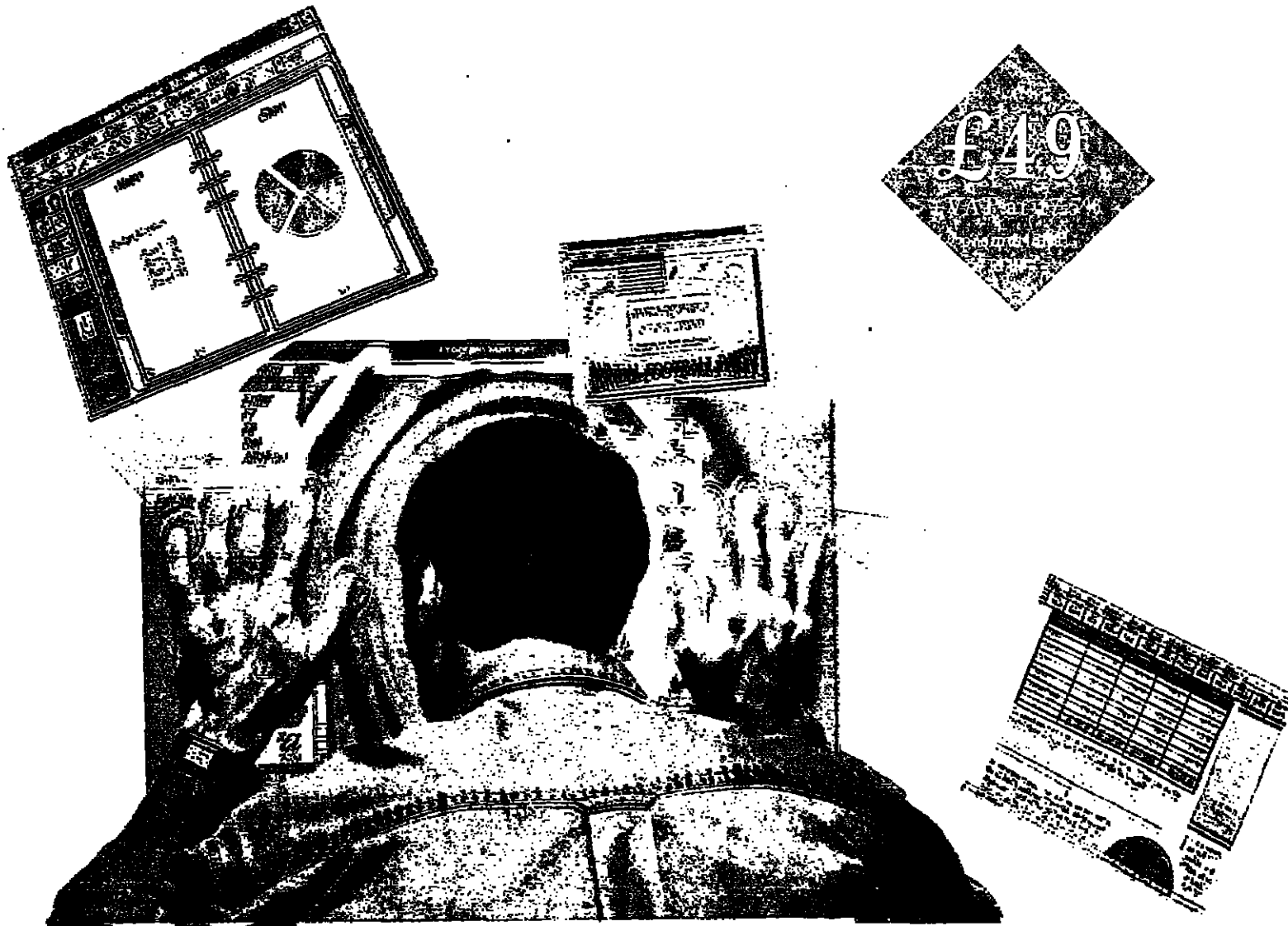
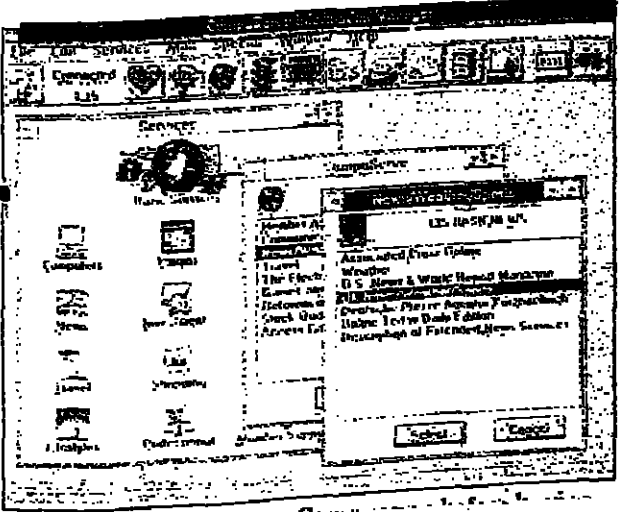
So buyers of both Apple's CD software and that on the PC Magazine disc are expected to pay full price. Lotus's Smart Suite set of applications, for example, retails at £500 on PC Magazine's CD-Rom. In the pages of the magazine it can be found for less than £350, even though the cost of delivering software electronically is a fraction of producing a conventional disc-based package.

Bargain software is available on a try-before-you-buy basis, if you are willing to shop around communications networks such as CompuServe or Internet.

There is a growing industry of small, independent software houses now producing reliable, professional packages that are small enough to be downloaded by modem, decompressed, tried and bought, either by credit card on the telephone or by using CompuServe's on-line registration.

The speed at which PC users can access on-line systems is increasing almost daily, leading most large software companies to believe that they will be delivering the majority of their software online within a few years.

DAVID HEWSON



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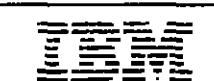
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Made to measure

David Hewson
goes on a technical
tour of Soho and
discovers a new
breed of user

This year Europeans will, for the first time, buy more personal computers than they do new motor cars, largely owing to rapid growth in a single market — the small and home office area known in the computer industry as Soho.

PC makers Compaq estimate that European Soho customers will buy about 4.7 million of the 11 million PCs sold this year, a rise of 15 per cent in a generally flat market.

Small business users have traditionally been the last people to enjoy the benefits of computer technology. In the past, sophisticated systems have usually been too expensive and too hard to learn. Many small companies and home workers have PCs, but they tend to be stand-alone machines usually running simple word processing, accounting or payroll packages.

The new breed of Soho user has more sophisticated demands. With a little foresight, it is now possible to set up small business networks, with electronic mail, on-line information processing and collective work-sharing capabilities for a



Jeremy Hall relaxes in his showroom among his products

fraction of the price, and the bother of yesterday's technology.

Peter Hall and Son is as traditional a small business as they come. A 15-employee company based in rural Lake District offices making and restoring antique furniture. The 22-year-old company prides itself on using old-fashioned materials such as horsehair in its furniture, but the facilities on its four-terminal business Apple Macintosh computer network would put many larger companies to shame.

Word processing, accounting, payroll, database management and even the design of the company's furniture are all handled by the

system, which partner Jeremy Hall believes has more than repaid its £12,000 cost.

One of the most useful programs on the system is also one of the least expensive. Clarisworks, an "integrated" application which combines the functions of word processor, graphics package, spreadsheet and database.

Mr Hall uses it for a wide variety of tasks, including furniture design and the desktop publishing of catalogues. Because all the elements are integrated into a single application, using design artwork in a catalogue or mailshot is a simple point and click task.

Integrated packages such as this

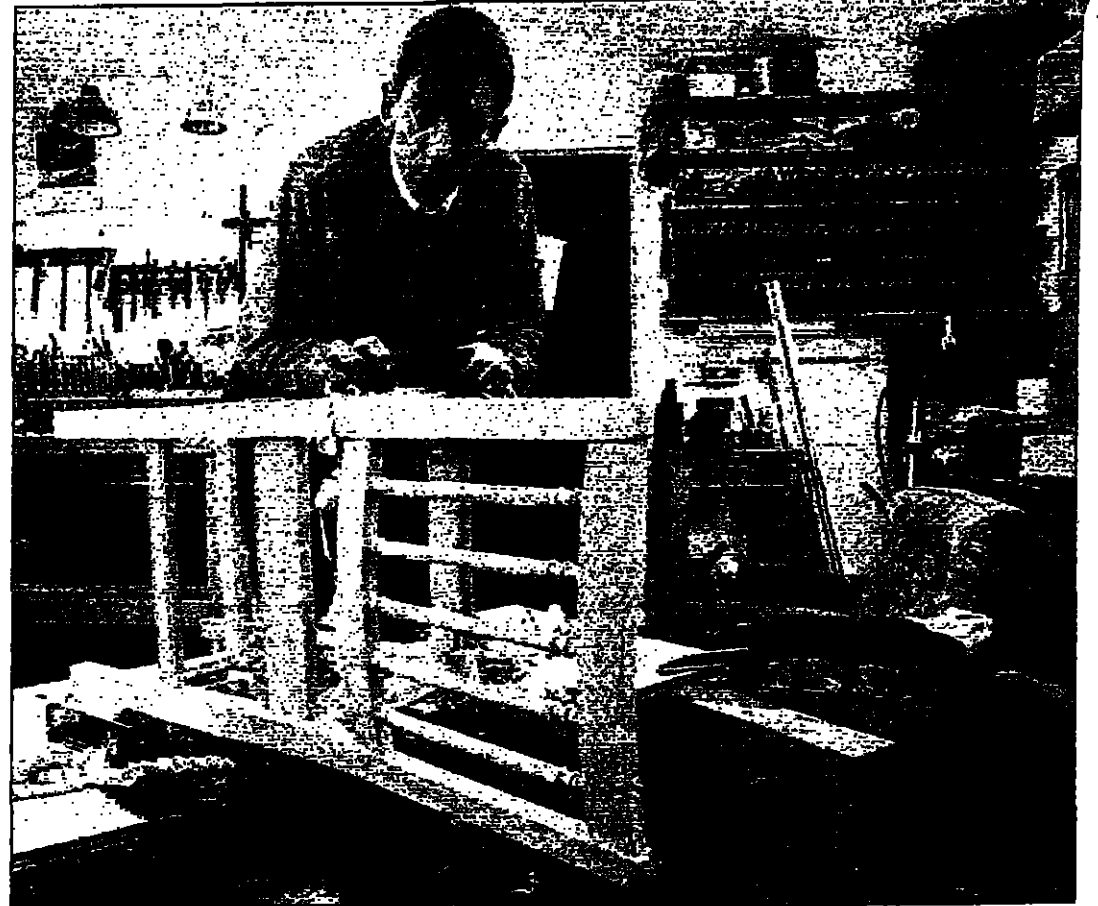
and the major rival, Microsoft Works, are at the heart of many switched-on small businesses. They bring much of the power of more expensive office suite packages but without the sophistication most small businesses find unnecessary.

Claris, a subsidiary of Apple, moved Works from the Macintosh on to Windows last year and won itself a host of admirers at the time, including Compaq.

Mr Hall finds that other companies are surprised when they discover the range and quality of work he gets out of his own small system, and often ask for advice. "The best thing to remember is that you have to be prepared to spend the time to make it work, otherwise you're not going to get the most out of it and you'll probably end up with an expensive electronic typewriter. Many people have got these packages already but they don't use them to their full capability because they don't know how."

Small businesses should also remember that the return on a computer system is not instant or always obvious. One of the best things that came out of the Hall's system was the ability to write individual mailshots to its wide customer base, but it took nine months for the company to build up the database on the system, and more time to learn the skills of direct-mail marketing.

One of the most remarkable changes has been in the field of small business networks with the launch of the latest version of Microsoft's Windows for Work-



Jeremy Hall, a business user, says: "You have to be prepared to spend the time to make it work"

groups. This is now designed to be a do-it-yourself kit for the small business, allowing the lay user to install a working network without the need for an outside consultant.

Electronic mail, a group diary which can handle appointments and room bookings, and even a fax facility which allows each individual on the network to send and

receive faxes through a single, shared fax modem, are standard.

A remote access facility due soon will allow a member of the network to dial in from outside the office and access work on his or her terminal. Since it works as a "peer-to-peer" network, Windows for Workgroups needs no dedicated server machine to keep the network going. The idea

is that small businesses simply convert their present stand-alone machines into a new network just by buying new network cards at £100 each, a few metres of cabling and installing the new version of Windows. Peer-to-peer networks can grow quite large, up to 20 machines. If the level of data-sharing is quite low.

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The price of software on the high street is dropping fast. However, David Hewson writes, beware hidden costs waiting in the wings

Pile 'em high and then sell 'em cheap

Gingerly, and with more than a touch of trepidation, the software business is creeping towards a "pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap" philosophy. Software prices have effectively halved over the past two years and may fall further as sales shift from specialist dealers to the high street.

Word Perfect, which grew into one of the largest software publishers in the world on the back of a word-processing product with a list price of nearly £400, is making a play to be one of the first of the giants to benefit from the new software marketplace.

At the end of this month it will launch a Main Street line of business, leisure and education titles priced between £29 and £79, including VAT, and sold through electronics and record retailers. The most expensive package will be an application that promises word processing, financial and graphics facilities sufficient to meet the needs of most small business and home users, computer tools that, only a few years ago, would have cost several hundred pounds.

At the same time, Word Perfect, like most of its rivals, has abandoned a fixed retail pricing policy in favour of street prices that mean only the naive pay the full price of a software package.

Its mainstream business word processor retains a street price of £230 plus VAT, for example, but a deal, available to anyone with another word processing package, brings the price down to about £100.

Most big office applications these days are bought as "suites", sets of programs bundled cheaply together which offer huge apparent savings. Lotus's Smart Suite deal, for example, has a street price of about £340, plus VAT, and includes the 1-2-3 spreadsheet, Ami Pro word processor, Approach database, a personal organiser and a presentation package. The street price for 1-2-3 alone is about £240.

Software is undoubtedly cheaper than it used to be, but it is rarely quite the bargain it appears. What companies are trying to do is buy large

market share at a price, with the profit coming from paid-for technical support and high-priced version upgrades of increasing regularity.

Until the growing popularity of Microsoft Windows, most software packages underwent upgrades every two to three years. Windows led to fierce competition for domination of a new marketplace.

As a result, the life cycle of software has shortened to a year, and sometimes less. An upgrade price of £100 per package is becoming common throughout the industry. With an annual upgrade rate, and three to four packages in each software suite, this means the yearly price of ownership of a suite for anyone who wants to keep it current is £300 to £400.

The hidden costs do not end there. To entice people to take out new upgrades, publishers have to deliver new, desirable features. Microsoft's latest office suite is packed with technological innovations that have won praise from the computer press, but they come with an overhead.

To run the new version of Microsoft Word for Windows, you really need a PC with eight megabytes of memory, not the four found on most office machines. Suddenly, another £150 to £200 has been added to the cost per desktop. There are ways in which

companies can minimise the expense of keeping their software current. Site licences allow users to buy the right to use extra copies of the software at a discounted price. Maintenance contracts are also increasingly popular. These guarantee that upgrades are available for a fixed price.

But maintenance contracts are strictly for companies with lots of PCs: smaller users have little choice but to look hard at each upgrade as it appears.

The fall in prices may not be over, however. Word Perfect's

recent acquisition by Novell will make it more aggressive on price, not less, says David Godwin, managing director. He predicts a further fall of up to 30 per cent in software prices over the next year.

Some pressure on price is coming from new, small companies such as Serif, an American firm started by a British software specialist, Gwynn Jones. Its main product, Page Plus, is a powerful desktop publishing application designed to rival older titles such as Aldus Page Maker, but at a much lower cost.

Mr Jones, Serif's president and chief executive officer, recently cut the asking price from £60, including VAT, to under £30. He foresees the day when computer software will be sold on the shelves of record stores for as little as £5, or even given away for free.

Serif claims that Page Plus makes a profit because of huge sales and the company's low overheads. It employs only 45 people — at its New Hampshire base and a factory unit in Nottingham, the hub of its European operation.

Mr Jones aims to expand sales into retailers and introduce budget price software packages that compete with the big names on features but sell for a fraction of the cost.

Profits will come from a broad family of loyal users



Gwynn Jones's main product, a powerful desktop publishing application, is designed to rival older titles at a much lower cost

who buy inexpensive upgrades and utilities. Page Plus packs of professional fonts for £5, a £20 drawing package, and a similarly inexpensive spreadsheet are planned for sale in the high street.

"The thing that is driving price pressure is the transition from having business software set the prices to having consumers set it. The market for consumer products is going to be several times larger than

the market for business ones," Mr Jones says.

"That's an enormous problem for the big companies. They've got lots of people earning large salaries. The cost of producing software, the

discs and the documentation, is tiny. The corporate ethics of the big companies are going to have to change. The top five will make the transition but the companies just below them face a difficult time."

Take two steps forward and one step back

Getting computers to talk to one another can be a nightmare

Communicating with other computers down the telephone line used to be a nightmare. Now, thanks to advanced software, it can be far easier — provided you survive the process of setting up the links.

To link your computer with the outside world needs two essential pieces of kit: a modem (hardware to convert the digital bits issued by the computer into analogue waves that run over the telephone line) and software (to handle the communications in a simple way).

Modems usually come with basic communications software, such as Datatalk, but to get the most out of a modem a state-of-the-art package can be well worth the extra expense.

In communications, hardware and software are getting better at working together. In the past, configuring both to co-operate has been a time-consuming and frustrating process involving complex and technical manuals.

"Most communications software packages have an enormous list of modems with which they can operate and you just have to hope that yours is on it," Bill Peckey, European technical manager at modem manufacturer Hayes, says.

The next problem is getting your computer and the one at the other end to sing the same tune. Despite the capabilities of modern modems to adapt, there are some things that cannot be set automatically and the user may have to adjust the software.

This is the sort of thing that can make computer communication no joy. The latest software makes this process easier but — despite claims to the contrary — it can remain an obstacle for those wanting just to use, rather than have to understand, their communications software.

Speeds are also being increased dramatically by the introduction of accelerator boards — cards that plug into the back of a PC to handle the modem, instead of using the standard serial port. The design of the PC serial port

starts losing data if the speed gets too high.

Accelerator boards are starting to make it possible for employees at home to log into the local area networks at work and obtain performance almost as fast as being in the office.

Computer conferencing and electronic mail services such as Cix and Compuserve are suddenly becoming very popular despite being rather difficult to use and having limited help facilities.

The unfriendly atmosphere — and the knowledge that you are paying for the telephone line all the time you are trying vainly to remember whether uploading is sending to the database or receiving from it — can contribute to a tense feeling when using the system.

This can be alleviated by using software called off-line readers (OLRs). When you log on to the system with an OLR, it reads all the messages on all the conferences of which you are a member, reads the latest messages, recovers any files from your personal mailbox and exits, quite possibly saving hours of telephone time.

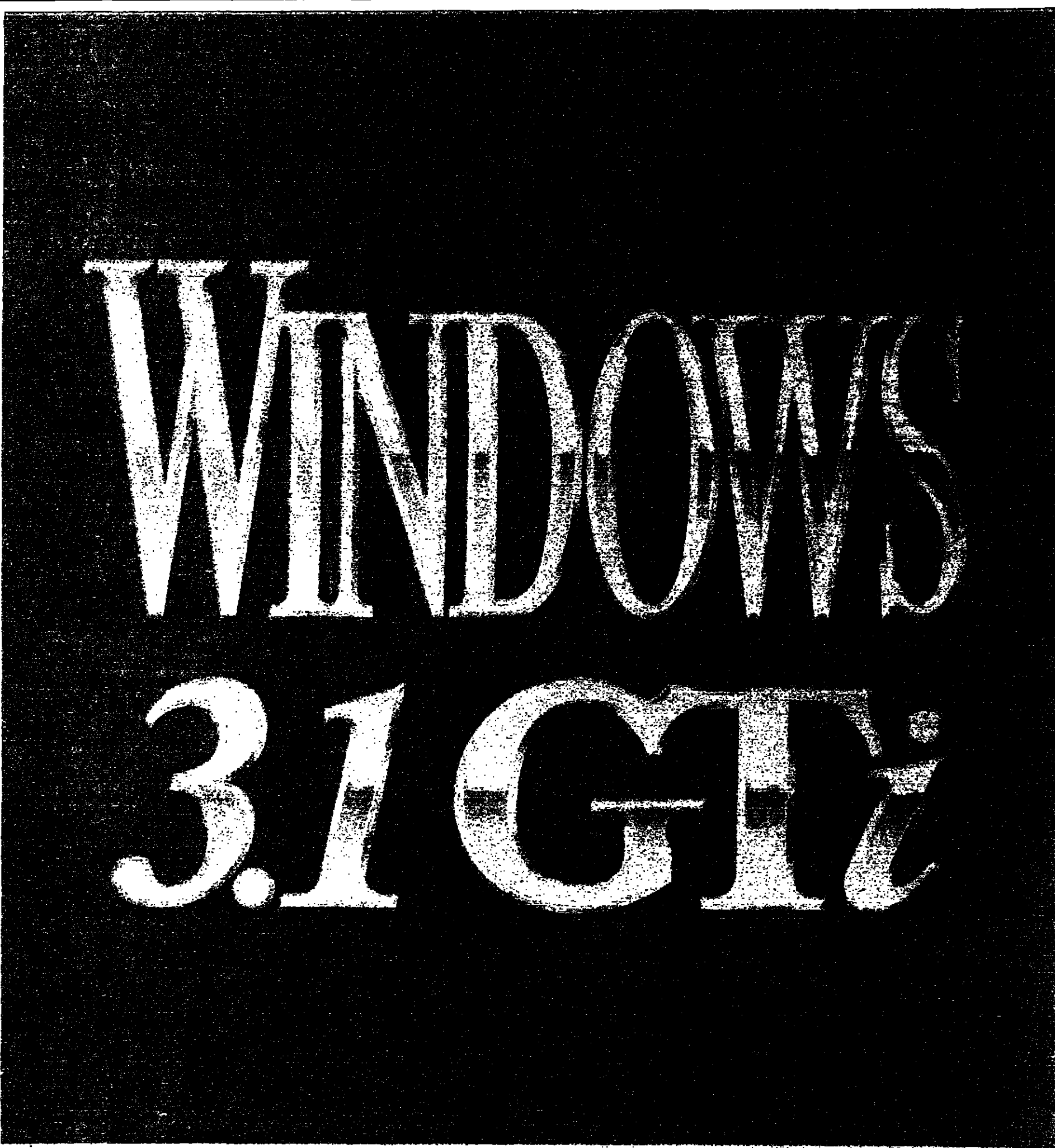
One well-regarded OLR is Wig Wam, from the British company Ashmount Research based in London. "We try to shield the user from communications," Ed Halsted of Ashmount says.

"That is OK for young computer buffs, but a director of a firm such as Nestlé, for example, is likely to be older and less computer knowledgeable, so he does not want to know about parity or stop bits or how to disentangle things on the screen."

"We have a unified piece of software allowing connection to a wide variety of services without any specialist knowledge."

Wig Wam looks quite simple but contains a vast amount of information on the various bulletin boards which enables it to communicate with each one, setting all the parameters automatically.

CHRIS PARTRIDGE



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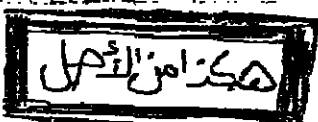
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Thumbs up for apprentices

The Government has introduced a scheme to provide young people with a new route into information technology (IT) using a modern form of apprenticeship.

David Young, the employment secretary, first mooted the idea last summer and last week asked the West London Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) to organise a scheme. The first apprentices are expected to start later this year.

The idea of apprenticeships being applied to high-tech trades was conceived by the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists in the City of London. The new programme, however, aims for national coverage to address what is seen as a national problem — a severe shortage of relevant skills expected in the near future coupled with an industry recruitment structure heavily weighted in favour of graduates.

The West London TEC argues that more than five million people could be under-exploiting IT at work for want of training, confidence and guidance.

It expects the figure to rise to 10 million by the end of the decade if no corrective measures are taken.

The TEC successfully bid to run the apprenticeship programme. The worshipful company provided information on its scheme, but did not formally bid. It now has eight young people mid-way through four-year apprenticeships.

The worshipful company's first apprentices work in companies that supply IT

A training and enterprise council has been chosen to design a national blueprint for IT training for young people. David Guest reports

equipment rather than to companies that use it. An early TEC statement said that its apprenticeships would also, in the short term, be for IT suppliers. Judith Parsons, executive director of training and education at the TEC, says that organisations that use IT will be involved as well.

She says: "Our next step is to work with the partners we named in our bid to establish in detail what they want to see in an apprenticeship programme and what they can contribute to it." These companies include BT, ICL and Digital and members of the IT user community such as Barclays Bank and British Airways.

The reason that the first apprentices are working with suppliers could be that they are more willing than user companies to make the commitments of time and money for training them. Gillian Davis, acting secretary of the worshipful company, suggests that "suppliers can perhaps also give them a broader education".

Ms Parsons aims to have a pilot apprenticeship programme in place for 20 young people by September. "We are starting development now, and we will begin to recruit young people from May," She says that the qualities and qualifica-

tions the TEC will look for in its prospective apprentices have yet to be fixed.

In this and several other areas it will have to talk to IT companies, users and industry organisations to establish the best route forward. The qualifications apprentices would leave with are another open question. "I think we will work very closely with the IT Industry Training Organisation" says Ms Parsons. "We want to be flexible and not prescriptive. The scheme needs to focus on what the industry wants."

West London TEC has been prominent in stimulating the take-up of IT National Vocational Qualifications and these could be the formal end product. "Our expectation is that an apprenticeship would last at least two years and would lead to a minimum NVQ Level 3," said Ms Parsons. "There may be recognised steps on the way to that."

The TEC differs from the Worshipful Company on the length of an apprenticeship appropriate to IT. Its course length of two years contrasts with the lively company's four. Mrs Davies says: "The

origins of our scheme were looked at in incredible depth by some people very experienced in training and education. I am sure that if they had felt it could be done in three years they would have gone for three. Perhaps it is more significant that they didn't say seven."

They are also likely to differ in scale. Although the Worshipful Company's programme is expanding in numbers and activities, Mrs Davies says: "We have had a lot more interest from members this year, including users, suppliers and universities. The universities would like us to be in a position to provide a list of companies offering apprenticeships and they will put out a list of potential apprentices — we would like that to happen as well."

The TEC's pilot programme could be the forerunner for much larger national efforts. Working with the IT Skills Forum it hopes to find other TECs to act as regional conduits.

It also expects IT training to move beyond its present boundaries. Ms Parsons says: "We feel it is vital that the other modern apprenticeships being set up should each incorporate a solid IT content."

"Every modern apprentice will need to be able to integrate IT into their work because IT is now all-pervasive, and exploiting its full potential is a prerequisite to business success. It needs to be regarded as another fundamental skill, like reading and writing."



Judith Parsons says apprenticeships will "focus on what the industry wants"

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Skelton steals the spotlight on Showtime

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR
IN 'SHERTOGENBOSCH, HOLLAND

NICK Skelton rode Everest Showtime to a thrilling victory in the Cehave International here yesterday to strengthen his confident claim that the nine-year-old mare is the best horse he has ridden.

The competition, the last before the start of the Volvo World Cup, produced a nail-biting 14-horse jump-off in which Skelton finished three quarters of a second ahead of the Dutch Olympic rider, Rob Ehrens, on Macho. Michael Whitaker, of Britain, was third on the powerful Dutch stallion, Everest Elton.

The win was a welcome change of

luck for the Warwickshire-based Skelton. His leading World Cup contender, Everest Major Wager, injured a tendon at the Paris show last month and will be out of action for the rest of the year. In December Mystic Micky, one of the two point-to-point horses he has been training, dropped dead on the gallops.

Although he has replaced Major Wager in the World Cup with Everest Limited Edition, Skelton, the runner-up in 1985, does not rate his chances highly. "Limited Edition hasn't been out since December. If he is not going well I may withdraw him after the first round — I'm just annoyed now I haven't got Showtime qualified," he said.

The German-bred Showtime,

who he describes as "ultra careful and fast," has been brought on carefully since Skelton started riding her three years ago. "I didn't want her to lose confidence so I've always taken her very quietly."

His patience was rewarded last October when she won the Everest championships at Wembley, one of the main events at the Horse of the Year Show. It was the first time she had been fully tested against the clock.

Last month, in Zurich, Showtime again impressed when finishing sixth and eighth in the two grands prix, her biggest test to date. "I suddenly had to upgrade her," Skelton said, "when Major Wager was injured."

Despite her successes Skelton is not considering riding her at the world championships in The Hague this summer. "It's too early. The European championships next year are the goal, and then perhaps, Atlanta [the 1996 Olympic Games]. I'll just see how she progresses."

John Whitaker, who has replaced Everest Milton with Costa Classics in the World Cup after worries over Milton's fitness, had little cheer yesterday. The ten-year-old Costa Classics, a joint winner of the Oslo World Cup qualifying round last October with his former rider, Philippe Vandoorne, gave little evidence of his talent when hitting two fences and refusing at the eighth. A glum Whitaker said he may consid-

er riding Everest Grannusch in all three legs of the final.

Britain's hopes of a third victory in the World Cup now rest squarely on the shoulders of Michael Whitaker, younger brother of John, whose European bronze medal-winning horse, Everest Midnight Madness, is one of the favourites.

Whitaker, who has not yet won a leading championship despite his ranking as the world No 1, has been in excellent form in the preparatory classes for the World Cup. He and Everest Elton were joint winners of the second warm-up class late on Wednesday night and yesterday they again displayed their class when finishing third to Ehrens. "I've got as good a chance as any,"

Whitaker said. "I just hope the courses suit him."

Eddie Macken, of Ireland, who is now based in Germany, was fourth on Schalkaar, the horse ridden in the World Cup final last year by George Sanna, of Australia. Although the Dutch-bred gelding has fully recovered from the allergy that afflicted him ten days ago, Macken has opted to ride his Gothenburg grand prix winner, Skyview, in the final. This is the fifth final in which the former Irish national champion has competed but he has yet to improve on his third place in 1979.

RESULTS: Cehave International: 1. Everest Showtime (N. Skelton, GB) 0 in 28.51sec; 2. Macho (R. Ehrens, Hol) 0 in 28.45; 3. Everest Elton (M. Whitaker, GB) 0 in 28.25; 4. Schalkaar (E. Macken, Ger) 0 in 31.38.

Bradford looking to build on spirit of Odsal

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ACT TWO at Central Park tonight will require something exceptional to repeat a classic first episode. But what the second rugby league meeting in four days between Wigan and Bradford Northern guarantees is high drama.

Were the plot straightforward, Wigan would win and have the impetus for a fifth successive Stages Bitter title. Alternatively, Bradford could stretch their lead and not look back. This year's championship race is nothing if not unpredictable.

Bradford, Wigan and Warrington have each led in the past two weeks, only to drop back. A win by Wigan would cause a levelling out on points at the top, but Castleford could yet sneak up on the rails.

The final ten days has the potential for nearly as many changes of lead. Bradford suffered badly at Easter, and Warrington before then, but Wigan have the jitters now.

Wigan had made strutting title run-ins a habit, but have lost four of their last seven matches. The ace they hold is

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Bradford	22	21	0	0	0	42
Warrington	22	21	0	0	0	42
Wigan	27	20	0	7	0	36
Castleford	27	18	1	8	21	40

Handicapping figures:
BRADFORD NORTHERN: Today: Wigan (4), Apr 15: St Helens (4), Apr 23 or 24: Leeds (4).
WARRINGTON: Apr 17: Castleford (4), Apr 22: Sheffield Eagles (4).
WIGAN: Today: Bradford (4), Apr 20: Castleford (4), Apr 24: Oldham (4).
CASTLEFORD: Apr 17: Warrington (4), Apr 20: Wigan (4), Apr 24: Wakefield Trinity (4).

a huge points-scoring advantage, which is why the smart money will follow them, provided they win tonight — and they have lost just once at home all season.

But Bradford need only invoke the spirit which brought them a famous victory against Wigan on Tuesday. Bradford's defence was sensational at Odsal, and will need to be again.

Warrington will watch and hope for a draw. Then, wins at Castleford on Sunday and Sheffield Eagles at home next Friday might give them a first championship for 20 years.

It could well be decided on the last weekend, in which case the Rugby Football League (RFL) might allow a request by Sky Television to bring Bradford's game at Leeds on Sunday forward by 24 hours, and make Sunday's Oldham-Wigan match a 7pm start for live coverage.

The RFL has demanded an explanation as to why Leeds fielded a second team when beaten 68-0 by St Helens on Wednesday.

If found to have held back players in reserve for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final on April 30, Leeds face being fined.

Harris finds worst round is enough as scores balloon

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

LEARNING how to strike a golf ball is only the half of becoming a good player, Jamie Harris, who plays off a handicap at Nevill, can clearly play golf. Now that he has won the McEvoy Trophy, he has gone some way towards learning how to build a score as well.

The weather was cruel at Copt Heath yesterday, a strong, biting wind making the course play long. In addition, rain, sleet, hail and sun at different times added to the players' difficulties.

Sam Walker and Sean Webster, the joint leaders at the halfway stage, were only two of those whose scores ballooned in the wind. In the morning they took 83 and 81 respectively.

After the first day Harris lay in joint second place, four strokes behind Walker and

Webster. He moved to second place, one stroke behind, with 18 holes remaining after a second successive 75. Then he survived a wobbly patch midway through his final round to record a 77, his worst score of the tournament, and win by two strokes.

Harris, 17, has left school and plays golf full time, earning money by doing office cleaning in the evenings. He is coached by Stephen Rolley at Worthing.

He appeared from nowhere to win the Carris Trophy, the English boys' stroke-play championship, at Moor Park last year. His score then was 285, three under par. "That was sunny with no wind," Harris said. "Not like this."

His total at Copt Heath was 300, 10 over par.

"I think this was rather given to me," Harris said. "I

played so badly over the last seven holes. I was five over par. But then on the 16th someone told me I was leading by five strokes."

"My driving was good in all four rounds. I didn't hit many bad drives and when I did I didn't have to hit out sideways."

Gary Harris, of Broome Manor, edged out Jamie Little, of Moor Park, for second place by virtue of better third and fourth rounds. Little had a torrid patch of golf just after the turn in his fourth round, bogeying the 10th and the 11th. Then he dropped two shots at the 15th, another at the 16th and two more at the 17th.

His troubles began just after he had passed a favourite spot for spectators by the first tee and the ninth green. One of those watching Little from this vantage point was Stuart Cookson, the president of the English Golf Union. He wore a tweed hat, a blue scarf, a rain suit, fur-lined gloves and carried an umbrella. Was it really spring?

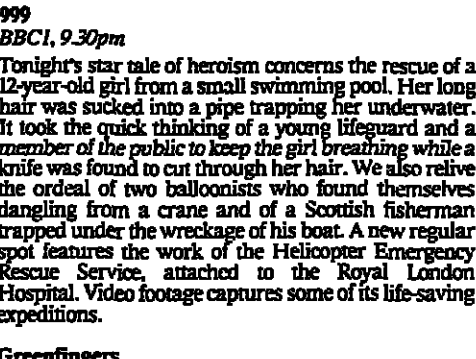
"You may not know this," Cookson said as he waited for Little to drive from the tenth tee. "But the current Hong Kong Open Amateur champion, the current China Open Amateur champion, the Spain Open Amateur champion and the Australian Open Amateur champion are all English. David Fisher won in Hong Kong, Gary Wolstenholme in China, James Healy in Spain and Warren Bennett in Australia last month." He smiled.

"Not a bad record is it?" Now he can add that the McEvoy Trophy is held by an Englishman, too. Harris was a member of the England team that won the home internationals at Glenelg last summer — the fourth English win in six years.

LEADING FINAL ROUND SCORES: 300: J. Harris (Nevill), 75, 75, 77, 302: G. Harris (Broome Manor), 77, 77, 74, 303: R. Little (Moor Park), 77, 79, 80, 308: R. Little (Northamptonshire), 78, 78, 78, 74, 309: D. Fisher (Hampshire), 78, 77, 76, 76, 310: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 311: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 312: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 313: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 314: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 315: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 316: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 317: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 318: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 319: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 320: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 321: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 322: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 323: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 324: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 325: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 326: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 327: G. Harris (Nevill), 79, 79, 78, 72, 328: G. 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CHANNEL 4

6.35 Star Street (t) (3305825)
7.00 The Big Breakfast Early morning mayhem with Gaby Roslin and Mark Little. Comic actress Col. Imrie is Paula's guest (55583)
9.00 King Arthur and the Knights of Justice Adventure cartoon (98783)
9.30 Sharky and George Underwater adventure (8646973)
9.55 California Dreams (2237486)
10.20 The Adventures of Super Mario Brothers Cartoon (t) (7859486)
10.40 GameMaster Computer game reviews (6745370)
11.10 The Finder Sci-fi adventure (t) (5055370)
11.35 The Legend of White Fang Animated series based on Jack London's classic tale (t) (6757295)
12.00 House to House Maya Ezen reports from Parisian (23047)
12.30 Seaside Story Early learning series (t) (89315)
2.00 Take 5 Animated film (t) (49573)
2.00 FILM: An Ideal Husband (1947) Oscar Wilde's drawing-room comedy of political intrigue starring Paulette Goddard and Michael Wilding. Hugh Williams and Glyne Johns. Directed by Alexander Korda (576487)
3.50 Seedy Spies Mr Magoo cartoon (t) (8555323)
3.55 Feisty Feet Beer and British cheese (t) (Teltelex) (5481660)
4.30 Fifteen to One (Teltelex) (t) (863)
5.00 Champions: Football Crazy A repeat of Monday's sports documentary (Teltelex) (t) (2047)
6.00 Blossom Blossom dreams about Fifteen to One (Teltelex) (t) (888)
6.30 Happy Days The Fonc rescues Roger (Teltelex) (680)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teltelex) and weather (4039121)
7.50 You Don't Know Me But... Maura McEllis welcomes Barbara Strosand to Britain (t) (676646)
8.00 CHOICE Africa Express (Teltelex) (9196)
8.30 Brookside (Teltelex) (t) (1931)
9.00 Garden Chat Gardening in Edinburgh (Teltelex) (9931)
9.30 Home Improvement American comedy series starring Tim Allen (Teltelex) (t) (3778)
10.00 Blossom American comedy series. How Blossom is torn between her family and her job (Teltelex) (t) (24776)
10.30 Jo Brand through the Cakeloh Comedy (Teltelex) (140554)
11.05 Eurotrash The best and the worst in Europe (t) (721028)
11.35 Beavis and Butt-Head Controversial cartoon duo (t) (963202)



BBC1, 3.05pm

With a true like that it can only be a gardening programme. It is a gardening programme, the novelty being that it comes from Northern Ireland. Viewers there have seen the first two series. This third one is being broadcast to mainland Britain as well. The emphasis is on the quality of the Irish gardening landscape, the product of a mild, damp climate, and the series aims to cater for the greatest of greenfingers as well as seasoned professionals. Today's programme includes a visit to the Ulster Wildlife Centre near Downpatrick which has a habitat in area containing examples of four endangered habitats. There are also tips on fruit growing, potting early plants and digging a garden pond.

Peter Waymark



Albert Brooks and Kathryn Harrold (12.05am)

12.05 FILM: *Modern Romance* (1981). Romantic comedy in which a neurotic film editor, devoted to his girlfriend, is unable to have a normal relationship with her. Albert Brooks is writer, star and director. Ends at 1.50

SATELLITE

3.25 Dolphins (A) Dry aly an (Thomson) arshland: on Earth (3743697)
4.45-5.35 Cobre Vones (ca. 8.55m) (576652)

SKY SLOTS

7.00am Prime Bodas (37825) 7.30 Soccer (5931846) 7.45 Netbuzers (5336398) 8.00 Snowdriving (361115) 8.30 Train (56466) 8.45-9.00 Soccer (47728) 9.30 Soccer (73641) 10.00 Bobs (44584) 1.00 Australian Rugby (46999) 1.00pm Boot Room (46999) 2.00pm Soccer (46999) 3.00pm West Indies vs England (3641) 6.00 Soccer (62778) 7.00 Big League (403757) 8.00 Basketball (7641) 11.00 Soccer (18221) 12.00-5.30 Cricket (ex tpm) (55303)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Aerobics (41028) 8.00 Formula One (73825) 9.00 Show Juggling (73247) 10.00 Soccer (56466) 11.00 Soccer (56466) 11.50 Soccer (56466) 12.00 Soccer (56466) 1.00pm Rugby (54592) 1.30 Motors: Magazine (64270) 2.30 Snowdriving (64271) 3.30 Ice Hockey (64272) 4.30 Soccer (64273) 5.30 Soccer (64274) 6.30 Soccer (64275) 7.30 Soccer (64276) 8.30 Soccer (64277) 9.30 Soccer (64278) 10.30 Soccer (64279) 11.30 Soccer (64280) 12.30 Soccer (64281) 1.30 Soccer (64282) 2.30 Soccer (64283) 3.30 Soccer (64284) 4.30 Soccer (64285) 5.30 Soccer (64286) 6.30 Soccer (64287) 7.30 Soccer (64288) 8.30 Soccer (64289) 9.30 Soccer (64290) 10.30 Soccer (64291) 11.30 Soccer (64292) 12.30 Soccer (64293) 1.30 Soccer (64294) 2.30 Soccer (64295) 3.30 Soccer (64296) 4.30 Soccer (64297) 5.30 Soccer (64298) 6.30 Soccer (64299) 7.30 Soccer (64300) 8.30 Soccer (64301) 9.30 Soccer (64302) 10.30 Soccer (64303) 11.30 Soccer (64304) 12.30 Soccer (64305) 1.30 Soccer (64306) 2.30 Soccer (64307) 3.30 Soccer (64308) 4.30 Soccer 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Through the Eurotrash (7210) head (963202)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showtime (43232414)
10.00 The Well-Heeled Train (1953) Western
sport with Burl Lancaster (458460)
12.30am Against a Crooked Sky (1973).
Children's adventure story (43370)
2.00 The Long Goodbye (1973) Comedy
comic about a Wall Street boss (28405)
4.00 Minnie Gans Goes to Paris (1932);
Angie Lansbury as an English woman who
travels to Paris (6641)
6.00 Archer (1965) The story of an
extramarital Australian racehorse (16641)
8.00 The Long Goodbye (1973) Comedy
comic comedy with Ayre Gross (16537474)
8.40 US Top Ten (655689)
10.00 Showband (1991) American Top
Ten (655689)

5.55 W
8.00 News &
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[illegible]

11.00 Week 1
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women seek solace in visits to a bathroom in 1939 Brooklyn. With Lynn Whitfield (16263)
8.00 Steel Justice (1992): Futuristic revenge drama with Robert Taylor (28028)
10.00 Gladiolus (1992): Amateur boxer James Marshall fights to survive (173573)
11.45 The Movie Show (#63196)
12.15m Stone Cold (1991): Cop Brian Bosworth infiltrates a bikie gang (#30413)
1.50 Wild Texas Wind (1997): A country singer is suspected of murder. With Dolly Parton and Gary Busey (#50719)

CLASSIC FM 10

MW 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz

BRAVO

12.00 **FLIM** *The Tractors* (1963, b/w) **MI** investigates the murder of a scientist (6516365) 1.30pm *Dave Niven Show* (3783221) 2.00 **FLIM** *Beaver* (1971) A boy bonds with his speech therapist (9852391) 4.00 *Mothers-in-Law* (556496) 4.30 **MI** *Three Sons* (914942) 5.00 *Beaverly Hills* (4260405) 5.30 *Hogan's Heroes* (4593678) 6.00 *Death Valley Days* (864739) 6.30 *Gun* (54173) 7.00 *Twelve O'Clock High* (54173) 8.00 *The Avengers* (854019) 9.00 **FLIM** *The Drunken (1962, b/w)*, Donald Pleasence stars as the misanthropic murderer (67773080) 10.50 *Doc* (8268370) 11.00 *Get Smart* (3535134) 11.30-12.00 *Danny and the Dog* (66177-8)

UK LIVING

7:00am Living (see08c4) 8.00u Fiction
(8124467) 8.30 Homo Sapien (8123739) 8.00u
Dr Rush (8174318) 9.30 Days of Our Lives
(1375196) 10.30 Young and Restless
(9675757) 11.30 Morko (4727467) 12.00u
Stars (8485540) 12.15pm Living
(5687283) 12.30 Housecalls (7768060)
1.00u First Garden (2620486) 1.30 Crosswalk
(7707979) 2.00 Apogee Hour (3683090) 3.00u
Living (3730318) 3.45 Gladiators (6459704)
4.00 Definition (2672660) 4.30 Instruction

Living (3439383) 5.4
American Plo (268

(2297825) 7.30 Amore (3679573) 8.00
Young and Restless (4272405) 8.00 FILM
For Ladies Only (1981) An actor turns to
exotic dancing (20520863) 10.45 Enjoy!
(7167009) 11.00 That's Amore (4741047)
11.30 Intuition (3811863) 12.00-1.00pm

FAMILY CHAN

5.00am Wonder Years (4080) 5.30 Zorro (2115) 6.00 Trivial Pursuit (9028) 6.30 Catchphrase (3080) 7.00 All Clued Up (4844) 7.30 Pyramid Game (2592) 8.00 Evening Shade (2500) 8.30 C.B. (3000) 8.00

Evening Shade (330)
Gentlemen and Players
Pursuit (4999) 10-30

MTV

Report (1057844) 3

4.00 News (8899689) 4.15 3 from 1
(8972912) 4.30 Dial MTV (3221) 5.00 Music
(59115) 7.00 Hrs (93370) 8.00 Most Wanted
(85047) 9.30 Boovie and Butt-head (15641)
10.00 Report (340689) 10.15 Movies

Chill Out (13622) 2.0

TV ASIA
6.00am Person Down (61467) 7.00 Asian Morning (32592) 8.00 Hindu News (93931)
8.30 Hindi News (7171220) 9.45 English

Newt. (7119931) 9.0
Pakistan: FILM (27

(61979) 1.30 Hindi FILM (188221) 4.30
Kiddie Time (5689) 5.00 TVA (3711) 7.00
Sports (2778) 7.30 ID Youth (7023) 8.00
News (729486) 8.15 Hindi FILM (24845669)
11.15 Serial (943738) 12.05am FWO Post

TNT

Theme: Friday Night Nightmare
7:00pm Jeopardy! (1953, b/w) Barbara Stanwyck rescues her husband (27977399)
8:20 Cry Terror (1958, b/w) Edwidge
dances with Red Skelton (56533058)

10.10 Fingers at the
Murder thriller with Le

2.50 **Talk About a Stranger** (1952, b.w.) A boy is observed by his mother with

George Murphy (361)
CNN

CMT
Twenty-four hour news programmes

QVC

Home shopping channel

TL. CLASSIC FM: FM
PETER DEAR AND

1

CLASSIC ROMANCE.
EVERY SUNDAY 9AM-NOON
CLASSIC fm 100-102

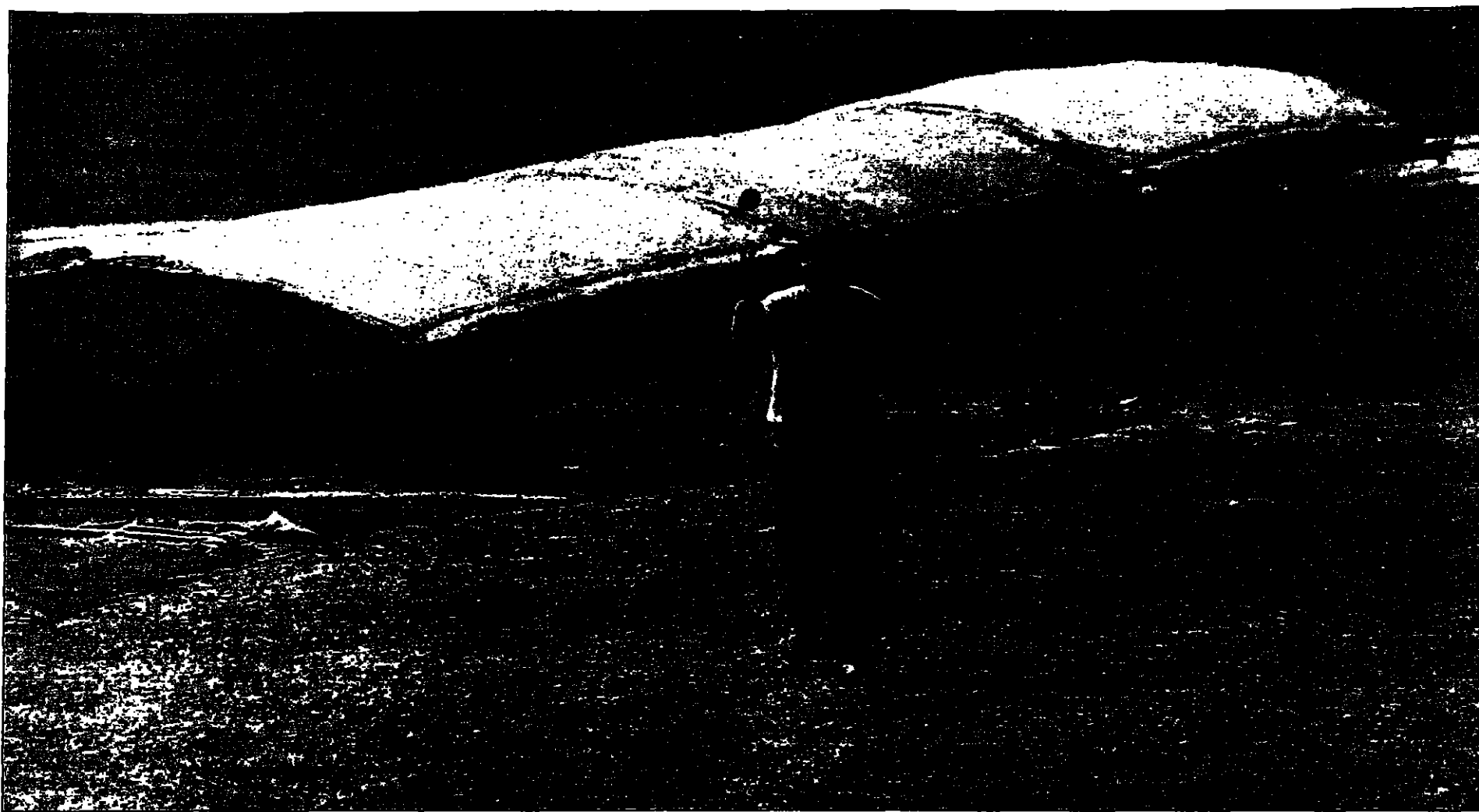
RABBITS RUNNING A
FINE LINE IN
LONDON MARATHON

SPORT

FRIDAY APRIL 15 1994

MOTOR RACING 42

SCHUMACHER SETS
FASTEST PRACTICE
TIME IN JAPAN



Dickie Bird, the umpire, prepares to deliver the third ball of the day at Fenner's yesterday. "It was snow," Bird said. "You can tell the world it was snow." It was not snow, just the first of the hailstones that swept over the ground after only two balls had been bowled and brought an early close to the match between Nottinghamshire and Cambridge University. At Oxford, branches from a 200-year-old hazel were blown down in the Parks, where play also finished early. Photograph: Marc Aspland.

England braced for backlash

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN ANTIGUA

CRICKET'S tales of the unexpected come no more startling than this. England have had far better teams winning far closer matches, but the result in Bridgetown on Wednesday was a triumph of hope over expectation and of will over reason. The destitute of cricket quite suddenly have bulging pockets and now, as every pools-winner will recognise, the trick is not to squander the proceeds.

There is no time for self-satisfaction. Tomorrow, the fifth and final Test of this tour begins here in Antigua, home to almost half the West Indies side, and already there is talk of a backlash. For England, however, the prospect is no longer so intimidating. Far better a backlash than a whitewash.

No matter what befalls them now, England will return home next week with public attention focused not on the gloom of continual defeat and the wretched state of the

domestic game but on the wonder of victory in Barbados. It did not save the series, which suffered a dramatic expiry in Trinidad, but it has surely saved Michael Atherton some unfair derision and it may even have saved Keith Fletcher his job.

Fletcher has been an easy scapegoat for the bad times on this tour. Sacking the manager is convenient treatment for a losing side but, in most cases, about as useful a cure as putting sun-block cream on burnt skin. It is not Fletcher's fault that his team lost here; his preparations were faultless and his attention to individuals meticulous. If any doubt his judgment of players, or his selections, let them attempt to do better with the materials at his disposal.

Being the man he is, Fletcher has not once declined to face the music and discuss England's failings after the dark days. So it was typical of him that, in the flush of triumph on Wednesday evening, he retired to the dressing-room and left the stage to Atherton, the captain.

As one of Atherton's recurring themes, and a justifiable one, was the vindication of team continuity, it is illogical to expect him to change a winning team any more than he changed a losing one. But not everybody contributed adequately to the victory and, when the selectors meet today, there will surely be prolonged discussion about the roles of Mark Ramprakash and Chris Lewis.

Ramprakash has always looked like a Test player, with all the technical and temperamental requirements, but there must come a time when he has to perform like one. In six Test innings on this tour, he has scored 54 runs and he has made only one half-century in his 13 Tests. Only the lack of compelling alternatives can save him for this last match, a comment which to a lesser degree must apply to the dreadfully disappointing Robin Smith.

Lewis's survival owes everything to the myth that he gives the team balance. But at Test level, his batting worth is negligible, and if Atherton



How is your 1st XI doing? The updated score is on page 42

thought so little of his bowling that he used him for two overs out of 71 during the Barbados Test, the time has come to be honest about him. After 24 Tests, he is no nearer being an influential England player than he was on his debut and Devon Malcolm would be the attacking option here.

The effect of defeat on the West Indies side is impossible to assess. They do not lose very often but, when they do, it is not their style to go down with gritted teeth. Of the eight West

Indian wickets to fall on Wednesday, four were donated by misplaced aggression.

One of the four was the captain, Richie Richardson, who had been in gung-ho mood when he opened the innings, pursuing the impossible of 446, and saw no good reason to play more circumspectly when he returned, hobbling on his pulled hamstring, with two sessions to survive.

Richardson will not be fit tomorrow and, but for the fact that it is his home Test, he might almost be relieved. Fatigue is his overwhelming emotion right now, and he fears burn-out may follow.

It is not surprising. The Test career of Sir Garfield Sobers is being celebrated here, and a wonderful career it was. But Sobers spread his 93 Tests over 20 years. Richardson has played 76 in 11 years, with the small matter of 190 one-day internationals on top. The rewards for the modern West Indian are high but the workload is commensurately heavy. Now and again, something has to give.

Yesterday, it was the entire team which had to give, after the assessment of the match referee, John Reid, that it was 13 overs short of the minimum requirement. This attracts a fine of 65 per cent of the match fee which, in the case of a senior player, probably amounts to about £1,200.

Curly Ambrose did not escape so lightly. Reid quite properly judged that his savage uprooting of a stump with his bat at the end of the game could not pass without punishment. It did not approach the scale of Chris Broad's demolition job in Sydney six years ago but it was a mite more spectacular than Keith Fletcher's flicking of a ball in Bangalore in 1982, and Reid imposed an additional penalty.

This may, of course, have the effect of making him an angry man tomorrow, and a vengeful Ambrose is a terrible sight to behold. Thanks to Barbados, however, England can approach the challenge without the dread and despondency that once looked to be overwhelming them.

Wessels to bring only two uncapped players

BY SIMON WILDE

IN NAMING their party yesterday for an eagerly anticipated cricket tour of England this summer, South Africa have retained faith in those who recently shared the spoils in two Test series with Australia. All but two of the 16 chosen players took part in those matches. Aubrey Marlyn, a left-arm seamer, and Gerhardus Liebenberg, a wicketkeeper-batsman who will be reserve to David Richardson, both uncapped, complete the party.

Marlyn, who will be 22 the day the tour opens with a one-day match against the Earl of Caernarvon's XI at Highclere on June 23, is the youngest member of the party. He owes his place to the knee injury which ruled out Brett Schultz, whose own left-arm seamers had earned him 24 wickets at 17.79 in five Tests before his absence deprived Kepler Wessels's all-pace attack of some much-needed variety.

"We have had a full medical report on his knee injuries and he could have gone," Ali Bacher, managing director of the South African board, said of Schultz. "But it would have been an extreme risk."

South Africa have included two slow bowlers — Patrick Symcox, an off spinner, and Tim Shaw, a left-arm seamer — to Clive Eksteen. But whether either will play a role in the three Test matches at Lord's, Headingley and the Oval is doubtful.

The temptation to recall the 40-year-old Jimmy Cook, who enjoyed such success during his three years with Somerset, was resisted, which means that the senior member of the party will be Peter Kirsten, Cook's junior by one year but whose experience of county cricket dates back to 1978. The tour, South Africa's first to England since 1965, will also include two limited-overs internationals.

K C Wessels (Eastern Province, capt), W J Coetzee (Orange Free State, vice-capt), D J Gubbins (Transvaal), P S de Villiers (Northern Transvaal), A A Donald (Orange Free State), A C Hudson (Natal), G Kirsten (Western Province), P M Krieger (Border), G F J Liebenberg (Orange Free State), B M Macmillan (Western Province), A Marlyn (Western Province), C R Matthews (Western Province), J N Rhodes (Natal), D J Richardson (Eastern Province), T G Shaw (Eastern Province), P L Symcox (Natal), Coach: M J Procter, Manager: F Sny.

Ticket touts hit by crackdown as laws tightened

BY JOHN GOODBODY

TICKET touts face being outlawed from trading outside football grounds because of new government legislation.

In a firm move against the "black market" in football, which could also be the first step towards banning the resale of tickets at other leading sports events like Wimbledon, the government has amended the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill, giving the police the power to arrest touts.

The amendment, which will go to the House of Lords on Monday and is likely to become law by the summer recess, makes ticket-touting at football matches a criminal offence, with penalties being either a £5,000 fine or up to six months imprisonment.

The decision delighted the Football Association. Spokesman David Bloomfield said yesterday: "This is what we have been campaigning for over many years." David Dein, Arsenal's vice-chairman said: "Nothing infuriates the public more than when they cannot get into a big game but see touts with fistfuls of tickets for sale at inflated prices."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, feels his double-chasing team has rediscovered its early season swagger following their 4-1 victory over Oldham Athletic in Wednesday's FA Cup semi-final replay at Maine Road.

Ferguson said yesterday: "We have had a tough programme with eight games in 26 days. But we have come through it. If we win six league games we have won the title and if we win one more match in the Cup we have won that."

United meet Chelsea at Wembley on May 14.

The Swindon Town manager, John Gorman, was yesterday given a vote of confidence by the club's chairman, Ray Hardman, and told he would stay in charge even if the bottom of the Premiership club is relegated. The visit of Wales to Germany in the European Championship qualifying tournament, scheduled for April 26, 1995, will not be played in Berlin as it coincides with the birthday of Rudolf Hess. England pulled out of their international against Germany on Wednesday because of security reasons. That game clashed with Hitler's birthday.

English pair break through golf's sixty barrier

FROM MEL WEBB IN PARIS

THERE it was, in unequivocal black and white — two leaders of a golf tournament on 58. Surely some mistake. Was it April 1? Was a mischievous scoreboard operator taking the mick? Fifty-eight? Full the other one.

On closer investigation it proved to be no joke after all. There really was a 58 at St Cloud Golf Club here yesterday. Admittedly, the two men at the top of the pile were playing together, and their 12-under-par round was a better-ball score. For all that, it was enough to send the statistically minded, the golfing equivalents of those rather strange men in anoraks who inhabit railway

stations in pursuit of train numbers, into a lather of excitement.

The perpetrators of the deed were Peter Baker and his long-time pal, David J Russell, who brought a course measuring 6,540 yards to its knees in the first round of the Perrier European Four-ball championship to lead by two shots from Russell Claydon and Paul Bales with the rest nowhere.

Four-ball or not, nothing quite like it had ever been seen on the PGA European Tour.

The figure 60 has long had a certain mystical quality about it and for the professional golfers of Europe. It has been achieved just seven times in tournament play, the last time by Jamie Spence in the European Masters at Crans-sur-

Sierra in 1992. It has been beaten only twice in professional tournaments anywhere, and then by a solitary shot — by Al Geiberger in a US Tour event 20 years ago and by Gary Player in an obscure tournament in Brazil.

That's all very well, you might say, but Baker did win nearly £500,000 in claiming two big-money victories in Europe last year, after all, and he did play brilliantly in his Ryder Cup debut last September. You would expect him to score pretty well, wouldn't you?

Well, yes, except that he didn't. Instead it was his pal Russell, a amiable and modest individual who with two tournament victories in a 21-year professional career would not quibble with the description

"journeyman", who went on an ornithological hunt and ended up bagging three brace of birdies and a pair of eagles.

Before the full facts emerged somebody congratulated Baker on a momentous achievement. "Thanks," Baker said. "But I didn't actually do anything." With nothing more than a modest two birdies to his name, he was almost right.

Russell, 39, who had been sitting quietly in the corner, was asked by the same interrogator what it was like to play with a famous partner. "I don't know," he said with a hint of a smile. "You'd better ask Pete." He was, to be honest, just a touch smug. He was perfectly entitled to be.

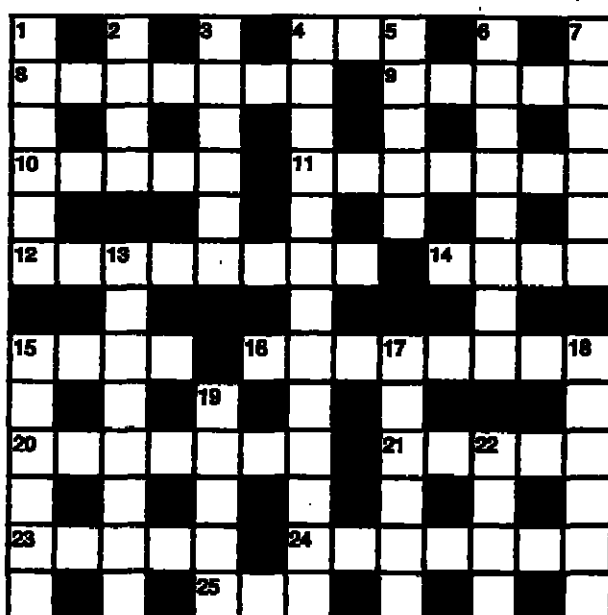
Baker did not arrive in Paris until Tuesday night after playing in his

first US Masters, where he missed the cut. He did not have a practice round, and said that he only agreed to play here if Russell carried him in the first round. Russell smiled another small smile. It was difficult to know, the smile seemed to say, whether it was a joke or not.

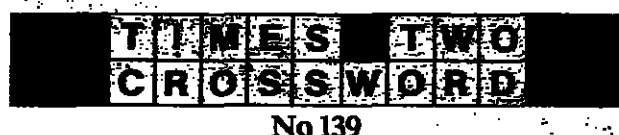
Meanwhile, two promising young chaps by the name of Severiano Ballesteros and José María Olazábal came in with a 63, a good enough score in most circumstances but one that put them firmly among the ranks of the spear-carriers.

Who needs superstars and Masters champions when you have got David J Russell?

Scores, page 39
McEvoy Trophy, page 39



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ACROSS
4 Proper; make the right size (3)
8 Portable case (7)
9 Perfection (5)
10 Fashion (5)
11 Dickens' miser (7)
12 Sentimentally amorous (8)
14 Pleated tartan skirt (4)
15 Bulb-like part of egg crocus (4)
16 Unlike other samples (8)
20 Strive to copy (7)
21 Son of Abraham (5)
23 Speed (5)
24 Taken into custody (7)
25 Pursue for debt (3)

DOWN
1 Tremble with cold (6)
2 Iris; lose energy (4)
3 Keel ship over for repair (6)
4 Unrepeatable success (5,2,3,3)
5 Jewelled head-dress (5)
6 Frenzied, possessed (8)
7 Able to speak without pause (6)
13 Nobleman (8)
15 Day-nursery (6)
17 Religious house (6)
18 Voracious swarming insect (6)
19 Put aside; rescued (5)
22 Too (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 138
ACROSS: 1 Scruff 5 Cupola 8 Gill 9 Reproach 10 Unstated 12 PAYE 13 Myopia 15 Purore 17 Born 19 Excuse-me 21 Oak-apple 23 Reef 24 Take up 25 Typist
DOWN: 2 Chimney 3 Unlit 4 First-rate 5 Cap 6 Prosper 7 Lucky 11 Deficient 14 Pancake 16 Rompers 18 Omaha 20 Scrap 22 Pup



By Raymond Keene
This position is from the game Mestrovic - Cvitan, Sarajevo 1988. Can you calculate the sequence of moves by which Black eventually forced victory?

Solution, page 40
Raymond Keene, page 8

By Philip Howard
WINDLESTRAW
a. A meek or traitor
b. A withered straw
c. A rent-collector

WORMIAN
a. Pertaining to worms
b. Skull bones
c. Anti-Roman-Catholic

ANATOCISM
a. Imitating ducks
b. Compound interest
c. Shaving the head

BLANCHARD
a. Fulsome flattery
b. A riposte at fencing
c. A white horse

Answers on page 40

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